

BULLETIN

OF THE

AMERICAN

Geographical and Statistical Society.

VOL. I.

AUGUST, 1852.

No. 1.

ORIGIN OF THE SOCIETY.

THE first attempts towards the formation of the Society originated in 1850, from suggestions by several gentlemen, among whom the name of GEORGE FOLSOM, Esq., now the U. S. Chargé des Affaires in Belgium, deserves to be mentioned. The importance of such a Society was sufficiently obvious; the only question was, who should undertake the labor and responsibility connected with it. At length, a public meeting was held on the 9th of October, 1851, at Mr. Disturnell's Geographical Rooms, in Broadway, and an organization was effected by the choice of the following officers :

President, Henry Grinnell; *Vice Presidents*, Joshua Leavitt, Henry E. Pierrepont, Archibald Russell, Freeman Hunt; *Treasurer*, Charles Congdon; *Foreign Corresponding Secretary*, S. De Witt Bloodgood; *Secretary and Agent*, John Disturnell; *Recording Secretary*, Charles A. Dana; *Executive Committee*, A. J. Cotheal, J. Calvin Smith, Lewis Gregory, Hiram Barney, L. B. Wyman, G. P. Putnam, H. J. Raymond, Paul Arpin, and M. D. Bean.

The Committee spent some time in negotiations arising out of a proposal by Mr. Disturnell to transfer the proprietorship of his Rooms to the Society; but at length they were satisfied that, with the present resources and prospects of the

Society, it would be unwise to load it with that responsibility ; and a room was procured in the New York University.

Mr. Henry Grinnell declined the office of President, for personal reasons ; and, it being desirable to effect some other changes, a new election of officers was held on the 21st of February, 1852, when the present Board was chosen. At a full meeting of the Board, held shortly afterwards, the organization was completed by the appointment of several standing committees.

It soon became apparent that a Charter of Incorporation would be very essential to the success of the Society and the security of its members. Several weighty considerations rendered it desirable that the charter should be enacted by the Legislature, and the proper steps were taken to obtain such a charter. The reasons urged were satisfactory to both Houses of the Legislature, to whose judgment the constitution referred the matter ; and the bill for a charter passed both Houses without objection ; but, unfortunately for us, it was vetoed by the Governor, at too late a period in the session to renew the application. It was therefore deemed advisable to obtain a charter of incorporation by certificate, under the general law for the incorporation of scientific and benevolent societies. The necessary steps were completed on the 22d of May, 1852, which constitutes the date of the Society's birth as an Incorporated Institution under the laws of the State of New York. The By Laws previously adopted were remodeled, to conform to the present charter, and the officers and trustees were reelected ; and thus the work of organization was completed.

OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES OF THE SOCIETY.

ELECTED MAY 22, 1852.

PRESIDENT,
GEORGE BANCROFT.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT,
HENRY GRINNELL,

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT,
FRANCIS L. HAWKS, D. D.

THIRD VICE PRESIDENT,
JOHN C. ZIMMERMAN, SEN.

TREASURER,
CHARLES CONGDON.
No. 28 CLIFF STREET.

RECORDING SECRETARY,
M. DUDLEY BEAN.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDING SECRETARY,
S. DEWITT BLOODGOOD.

DOMESTIC CORRESPONDING SECRETARY,
ARCHIBALD RUSSELL.

LIBRARIAN,
JOSHUA LEAVITT.

TRUSTEES,

HENRY E. PIERREPONT,
ALEX. J. COTHEAL,
J. CALVIN SMITH,
HIRAM BARNEY,
JOHN JAY,

EDMUND BLUNT,
LUTHER B. WYMAN,
J. CARSON BREVOORT,
CAMBRIDGE LIVINGSTON,
HENRY V. POOR.

BY LAWS.

MEMBERS.

I. The Society shall consist of *Resident*, *Non-resident*, *Corresponding*, *Honorary*, and *Ex-officio Members*. *Resident Members* shall be persons residing in the City of New York or its vicinity. *Non-resident Members* shall be persons residing elsewhere, and interested in the objects of the Society. *Corresponding Members* shall be limited to those who have advanced, by their publications or services, the Sciences, of Geography or of Statistics; *Honorary Members*, those who have distinguished themselves in the Sciences of Geography or Statistics, and at no time to exceed twenty persons. *Ex-officio Members* shall be the Foreign Ministers and Consuls resident in the United States, and American Ministers and Consuls resident abroad.

II. Any person may become a Resident Member of the Society by the payment of Ten Dollars. Any person paying Fifty Dollars shall be a Member for life, without being liable to any other dues. Non-resident Members shall pay Five Dollars, initiation fee, on admission.

Honorary Members may be elected by the Society on the recommendation of the Board of Trustees.

Corresponding Members may be elected by the Society or by the Board of Trustees.

Ex-Officio Members shall be enrolled on their own request, or by vote of the Board.

ANNUAL DUES.

III. The Annual Dues of Resident Members shall be Five Dollars. The Annual Dues of Non-resident Members shall be Two Dollars. Should any Member refuse to pay the Annual Dues when called upon, or neglect the payment for two years successively, the Trustees may erase his name from the list of Members.

OFFICERS.

IV. The Officers of the Society are—

A PRESIDENT,
THREE VICE-PRESIDENTS,
A FOREIGN CORRESPONDING SECRETARY,
A DOMESTIC CORRESPONDING SECRETARY,
A RECORDING SECRETARY,
A TREASURER, and
A LIBRARIAN.

They shall be elected annually by ballot, and shall hold their offices respectively for one year, and until others shall be chosen in their places.

These Officers, together with ten other Members to be elected annually, shall constitute the Board of Trustees.

ANNUAL MEETING.

V. The Society shall hold its Annual Meeting on the Second Tuesday of February yearly, when the Officers and Trustees shall be chosen by ballot, a majority of votes being necessary for a choice on the first balloting, but where no choice is effected as to any office on the first trial a further balloting shall take place, at which a plurality of votes shall elect.

MONTHLY AND SPECIAL MEETINGS.

VI. The Society shall meet regularly for the transaction of business, at its room, on the Second Tuesday in every

month, unless otherwise specially ordered. But the President, or in his absence either of the Vice-Presidents, may, and upon the written request of any fifteen Members shall, call a special meeting, giving three day's notice thereof in two public newspapers printed in the city of New York, and a special notice of at least three days, sent through the post-office, to each Resident Member.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

VII. At the regular meetings of the Society, the following shall be the order of business :

1. The reading of the minutes of the last meeting.
2. Reports and communications from officers of the Society.
3. Reports of the Trustees and Committees.
4. Miscellaneous business.
5. Papers read, and Addresses delivered, before the Society.

QUORUM.

VIII. At all meetings of the Society, ten Members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

PRESIDING OFFICER.

IX. The President, or in his absence one of the Vice-Presidents, or in their absence a Chairman *pro tempore*, shall preside at all meetings of the Society, and shall have a casting vote. He shall preserve order, and shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Society. He shall also appoint all Committees authorized by the Society, unless otherwise specially ordered.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARIES.

X. The Corresponding Secretaries shall conduct the general correspondence of the Society. They shall have the custody of all letters and communications to the Society, excepting papers read and addresses delivered before the same, which shall be deposited in the Library. They shall at every meet-

ing of the Society, read such letters and communications as they may have received ; they shall prepare all letters to be written in connection with the business or objects of the Society, and transmit the same ; but the Society may appoint a Committee to prepare a letter or letters, on any special occasion. They shall keep, in suitable books to be provided for that purpose, true copies of all letters written on behalf of the Society ; and shall carefully preserve the originals of all letters and communications received.

The duties of the Foreign Corresponding Secretary shall be limited to the correspondence with individuals or associate bodies in foreign countries ; and those of the Domestic Corresponding Secretary shall, in like manner, be confined to the United States ; except that, in the absence of either of these officers, or during a vacancy in either office, its duties shall be performed by the remaining incumbent, until such absence shall terminate, or the vacancy be supplied.

RECORDING SECRETARY.

XI. The Recording Secretary shall have the custody of the Seal, Charter, By-Laws, and Records of the Society. He shall, under the direction of the President or either of the Vice-Presidents, give due notice of the time and place of all meetings of the Society, and attend the same. He shall keep fair and accurate records of all the proceedings and orders of the Society ; and shall give notice to the several officers, and to the Trustees and Committees, of all votes, orders, resolves, and proceedings of the Society, affecting them, or appertaining to their respective duties.

LIBRARIAN.

XII. The Librarian, under the direction of the Board of Trustees, shall have the charge and superintendence of the rooms, and the custody and arrangement of the books and maps, and other articles belonging to the Library and Collections of the Society. He shall acknowledge the receipt of donations to the Society in his department.

TREASURER.

XIII. The Treasurer shall collect and keep the funds and securities of the Society, and shall disburse and dispose of the same under the direction of the Board of Trustees.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

XIV. The Board of Trustees shall have the control and management of the affairs, property, and funds of the Society.

A majority of them shall be a quorum for the transaction of business.

They shall have power to fill any vacancy that shall occur among the Officers or Trustees of the Society.

They shall make their own by-laws, which shall not be inconsistent with these by-laws.

They shall meet at least once in every month, for the transaction of business, except during the months of July, August, and September.

If any member of the Board shall be absent from its meetings for three successive months, without reason satisfactory to the Board, his place may be declared vacant, by a vote of the Board ; but this rule shall not apply to the President or Vice-Presidents.

Any Officer or member of the Board may be removed from his place by the Board, for cause, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at the meeting, provided such two-thirds shall be equal in number to a majority of the whole Board.

The Board shall not make any contract involving a liability exceeding the sum of five hundred dollars, nor make any sale or disposal of the property of the Society exceeding in value that sum, without an approving vote of the Society at a regular meeting.

No debt shall be contracted whereby the aggregate debts of the Society shall be increased more than \$1,000 above the unappropriated funds at the time in the treasury ; and no

debt shall be incurred until it shall have been approved by the Board.

ALTERATION OF BY-LAWS.

XV. No alteration in the By-Laws of the Society shall be made, unless such alteration shall have been openly proposed at a previous meeting, and entered on the minutes, with the name of the Member proposing the same, and shall be adopted by a vote of two-thirds of the Members present at a regular meeting of the Society.

OBJECT AND PLANS.

THE object of the Society is the advancement of Geographical and Statistical Science, by the collection and diffusion of knowledge in those branches.

Among the measures at present contemplated for this purpose are the following:

1. A collection of the most valuable maps and books of reference on Geography and Statistics, from all countries, to be deposited and kept for public use, under proper regulations.

2. Stated meetings on the second Tuesday of every month (July, August, and September excepted), open to the public, for the reading of valuable papers on Geographical and Statistical subjects, collected from all quarters, with conversational discussions, personal narratives of explorers and travelers, &c.

3. A Bulletin of the Society's transactions and collections, published periodically, furnished to all the members, and sent in exchange to kindred institutions in all countries.

4. To obtain, through the kind coöperation of the Foreign Consuls resident here, the latest, completest, and most authentic information, publications, and public documents, from their respective countries. Several Consuls of leading Governments have already expressed a warm interest and pledged a hearty coöperation in this branch of our plans.

5. By correspondence with Missionaries, officers of the Army and Navy, and others, to increase the extent and accuracy of Geographical and Statistical knowledge.

Contributions in aid of these several plans will be thankfully received and acknowledged, whether of maps and works of reference, papers and communications on topics of interest, recent and reliable information concerning any part of the world, or means to defray the unavoidable expenses of the Society.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE SOCIETY.

FIRST PUBLIC SITTING.

A MEETING of the American Geographical and Statistical Society was held, at the rooms of the New York Historical Society, Tuesday Jan. 13, 1852, Joshua Leavitt, Esq., 1st Vice-President, in the chair.

The objects of the Society were stated in the opening address of the presiding officer.

Mr. De Witt Bloodgood, after making a few appropriate remarks, offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That the thanks of this Society be tendered to the Foreign Consuls who have done it the honor to be present at the meeting this evening.

Auguste Moxhet, Esq., Consul General of Belgium, replied, tendering his hearty coöperation in advancing the objects of the Society.

PAPER BY MR. E. A. HOPKINS.

The chairman then introduced to the meeting Edward A. Hopkins, Esq., of Vermont, recently appointed U. S. Consul to the Republic of Paraguay. Mr. Hopkins has spent some years in the region of the Rio de la Plata and its tributaries, and kindly consented to prepare for this Society a paper on

the geography and resources of that magnificent valley. The lecture was illustrated by the use of a skeleton map, drawn under direction of Mr. Hopkins. It was listened to with marked attention by the audience; and a vote of thanks was passed with much cordiality, at the close, for so auspicious a commencement of the Society's public demonstrations. In compliance with a request of the Society, the paper was placed at its disposal by the author, and is as follows:

MEMOIR ON THE GEOGRAPHY, HISTORY, PRODUCTIONS,
AND TRADE OF PARAGUAY.

BY EDWARD A. HOPKINS, ESQ.,

Consul of the United States for Paraguay.

GENTLEMEN,

The invitation which some kind friends have extended to me, to address this Society, was entirely unexpected. Indeed, I recognize in a painful degree, my incompetence to appear in this place, for it is the first time in my life that I have ever spoken beyond the circles of private or collegiate life. I am a stranger among my own countrymen. I have no home here, because since early youth I have wandered throughout South America, striving to fit myself to introduce there the capital and energies of the American people. If, therefore, I am alone in many of the assertions which I shall make to you, be kind enough to remember that I am also alone in my exertions to procure knowledge in relation to these countries, as well as alone among men for the advantages in so doing which have fallen to my lot. I shall, however, give you such contemporaneous evidence as I possess; but upon Paraguay, the most interesting feature in our memoir, we have but little of modern value, for strange events in that country have closed it from the knowledge as well as the curiosity of mankind, for forty years.

I shall do as well as I can, gentlemen; I only ask you to extend to me the same forbearance which you would show to a native Paraguayan, were he to occupy my present position;

for his ambition would be bounded by the hope, that he might draw the attention of some one more capable than himself to the magnificent range of subjects, which would so richly reward investigation, in the regions of the world now under our consideration, and which have hitherto been so little known.

GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION.

The vast territory, formerly known by the appellation of Paraguay, comprised all that portion of South America which was bounded on the north by the northern frontier of the provinces of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, and Charcas, in 16° south latitude; on the south by the Straits of Magellan; by Brazil on the east; and by Chili and Peru on the west. But the country now distinguished by that name, is entirely contained within the shores of the Paraguay and Paranà rivers, from an undefined boundary with Brazil, in about 17° south latitude, to their junction in 27° south latitude. The maps of these regions are manifestly incorrect in comparison with those of the better known portions of the world; still they are sufficient to give the student a correct geographical idea of the sources and channels of these noble rivers.

The Rio de la Plata is formed by the confluence of the Uruguay with the Paranà; and, from thence to the ocean, it is remarkable for its great breadth and shallow waters, and should properly be considered as an estuary of the sea.

The river Paranà rises in the western slope of the highlands near the sea-board, north-westwardly of Rio de Janeiro; and flowing westerly and south-westerly to its junction with the Paraguay, continues a southerly and south-easterly course to the ocean: in this course, through sixteen degrees of latitude and as many of longitude, its navigation is only interrupted in one place, at latitude $23^{\circ} 40'$. Here the river flows for thirty-six leagues through a narrow gorge, which it has burst through the chain of mountains running from the province of San Paulo in Brazil, westward, till they are lost before reaching the Cordilleras. Probably no living white man has ever seen these extraordinary rapids. They were described

in 1808, by D. Felix d'Azara, from hearsay, because, owing to domestic dissensions, barbarism has greatly encroached upon the frontiers originally conquered from the aborigines by the Spaniards.

Immediately above these rapids the river is 12,600 feet wide; but this enormous width is suddenly reduced to a single channel of 180 feet wide, down which the whole mass of water is precipitated with tremendous fury. The water falls on an inclined plane of fifty degrees, forming an immediate descent of about fifty-eight feet, and the noise is heard for eighteen miles. Señor d'Azara is of the opinion, that next to Niagara this is the most remarkable cataract in the world, from its extent and the amount of its waters.

Both below and above this cataract, numerous tributaries, many of them larger than the largest rivers of Europe, send their waters to swell its gigantic flood. But the largest and most important of them all is the river Paraguay, which empties into the Paraná at $27^{\circ} 20'$ south latitude. This river is undoubtedly the most perfect, for the purposes of navigation, of any in the known world; and its position in reference to different countries, is of the utmost importance. Its first sources are in 13° south latitude and 12° longitude west from Rio de Janeiro. From thence it increases rapidly and majestically. In fact, its primitive fountains are so plentiful both in number and in water, that in a very short distance from them it is already fully navigable. Its bed, spotted with gold and brilliants, indicates that it is to be the great channel of the immense riches of South America.

On the east lies the rich Brazilian province of Matto Grosso, whose capital, Cuyabá, contains 30,000 inhabitants, and is situated in latitude $15^{\circ} 36'$ upon the banks of the San Lorenzo, a navigable tributary of the Paraguay. The city is surrounded by agricultural establishments, well stocked with cattle of enormous size, and by mines of gold and diamonds. The population of this province is estimated at 150,000 souls.

On the west, descending, we meet with the three most populous provinces of Bolivia, Mojos, Santa Cruz de la

Sierra, and Chiquitos, from whence the celebrated Peruvian bark is chiefly procured. From thence, it is at present carried on mules westward, over the Andes, and exported from Cobija, the only seaport possessed by Bolivia, and finally finds its way to our shores, by doubling Cape Horn.

Floating farther down, we meet with the river Jauru, which is navigable up as far as the heart of the province of Chiquitos; and still farther down, in lat. 23° , the river Verde. From thence, on the western bank, down to the city of Santa Fé, on the Paraná, all is a primitive wilderness, inhabited by the aboriginal savages. But we meet, in this part of our course, two magnificent rivers, which are of the utmost importance. They are the Pilcomayo and the Bermejo, both navigable; and the valleys of both are thickly populated by the descendants of the white man, the lands along their banks being of unsurpassed value in production. The Pilcomayo rises on the eastern slope of the Andes, near the silver mines of Potosi, in Bolivia; and flowing south-eastwardly, near Chuquisaca, the capital of Bolivia, enters into the Paraguay three leagues south of the city of Asunción, the capital of Paraguay. The Bermejo takes its rise also from the eastern slope of the Andes, and, flowing through the populous provinces of Salta, Jujui, Catamarca, and San Juan, also empties into the Paraguay, in 27° S. lat., opposite the commercial port of Villa del Pilar, and near the embouchure of the Paraná. The voyages of discovery on the Pilcomayo and Bermejo, accomplished by the Señores Cornejo, Espinola, and Soria, demonstrate on every page, the ecstatic enthusiasm of their authors at the richness and beauty of the country on their banks, and fully prove that the regions through which they flow are among the most beneficent gifts of Providence to man. In the year 1820, companies were formed for the purpose of introducing European emigration into those regions; and several useful industrial establishments were set in operation for the manufacture of a very superior indigo. But civil wars, upon which I shall touch by and by, destroyed all.

Descending the Paraguay from the river San Lorenzo, on

the eastward, we find constantly an uninterrupted line of white population. In Paraguay itself, the population amounts to 1,200,000 souls; and the country is intersected by many rivers, all more or less navigable; that is to say, from ten to fifty leagues. The river Tibicuari is the most important. It was fully explored in 1785, by D'Azara, as well as last year, by myself; and is navigable for steamboats of light draught, for eighty leagues. Its banks are thickly populated throughout its whole extent. Descending still towards the ocean, we find the eastern shores of the Paraná lined with thirty-eight cities, towns, and villages; and in the provinces of Corrientes and Entre-Rios, a population of a hundred and fifty thousand souls. A rough calculation, according to the best authorities extant, would place the extent of river navigation within Cape St. Mary at not less than ten thousand miles, all of which, in a state of nature, is unobstructed by any impediment to steamboats. Upon the banks of these streams is found a population of 3,000,000, entirely dependent upon this navigation for their imports and exports.

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

Yet it will be asked, "How is it that all this has just been found out?" or, rather, "Why have these unexampled advantages been hitherto closed from our energies?" The story is one of dark crime. Its cause is simple, when explained. Two extraordinary characters will be found to be the chief impediments; Rosas, the dictator of Buenos-Aires; and Francia, the tyrant of Paraguay. Whilst at the same time our own government has heavy sins of omission to answer for, that of England remains misrepresented by a dilatory and inexplicable policy; and that of France suffers under grave imputations of an ill-timed generosity, biased and rendered fruitless by English competition and her own internal revolutions. All these causes have combined in producing the same result; an immunity on the part of barbarous tyrants to oppress and destroy, and, as a necessary consequence, an increasing debility and want of confidence in all commercial transactions in these countries.

The dismemberment of the provinces of La Plata took place at the close of the year 1813. It began with Paraguay; but, strictly speaking, she could at no time be said to have formed a portion of the "United Provinces," as created by the patriots. She never joined in any confederacy with them, but at once, in 1811, established on the ruins of the Spanish power, an independent government of her own. This fact demands especial attention, as the basis of her subsequent history. The truth is, that Paraguay secured her independence from a colonial vassalage, more by the advantages of her isolated geographical position, than by any exertions on the part of her inhabitants. This same geographical position has also been one cause of the terrible tyranny to which she was subjected under the dictator Francia; and, although in that instance it may have operated in favor of her worst internal enemy, yet it must always be a powerful safeguard against the risk of foreign domination.

Dr. Francia began his political career as secretary to the revolutionary Junta, in 1811. In 1814, we find him terminating his consular career, and elected dictator for three years. But to secure this election, even by his own creatures, he was compelled, in imitation of other great usurpers in the history of the world, to order out his guards and surround the church where his congress met, by way of a gentle hint that he was to be obeyed. From this time he does not seem to have deemed a re-election necessary; but he fortified his position by a system of espionage, which he constantly extended and ramified, and by which he distracted and alarmed every family in Asunción. He encouraged all the lower classes to look to him for favor and advancement, and sowed discord and jealousies among the better portion of the community, by every surreptitious means in his power.

From this time until his death, which took place on the 23d of September, 1840, he adopted, as his established principle, perfect non-intercourse with all the world; and his government became, with each day that his miserable life was prolonged, only the more despotic, and the more of a curse

upon his country. Churches were robbed to pay the hirelings of his nefarious will ; religious sanctuaries were desecrated ; the priesthood were imprisoned ; and, unmarried himself, he destroyed, by forbidding, the matrimonial tie. Immorality stalked abroad in the rays of the noonday sun. The city of Asunción became shrouded in gloom. The houses—with doors and windows always closed, business suspended, and no sound of domestic comfort or social hilarity to dispel the awful stillness caused by the darkness of despair—seemed only to contain the contemplated victims of the *Supremo*. Robertson says that, ten years before his death, “the prisons were groaning with their inmates ; commerce was paralyzed ; vessels were rotting on the river-banks ; produce going to decay in the warehouses ; and the insolence of his soldiers was systematically encouraged, as the best means of striking terror into the hearts of the crouching and insulted citizens ; distrust and fear pervaded every habitation ; the nearest friends and relations were afraid of each other ; despondency and despair were written upon every countenance you met ; and the only laughter heard in the city was that of Francia’s soldiers over their revels in the barracks, or their exultation over the affronts offered to unoffending citizens in the streets.”

At length, as full of years as of crimes, he expired at the age of eighty-two—one of the few tyrants who have quietly died in their beds at a good old age, and in the plenitude of their power. He left his country impoverished of its precious metals ; not a dollar in the treasury ; and not a public or private paper of his administration unburned. For the reputation of the human family, Francia should be considered as insane during the latter years of his life ; “For,” as Mackintosh expresses it, “the subtle and shifting transformations of wild passion into maniacal disease, the return of the maniac to the scarcely more healthy state of stupid anger, and the character to be given to acts done by him when near the varying frontier which separates lunacy from malignity, are matters which have defied all the experience and sagacity of the world.”

After the death of Francia, a popular congress elected

again two consuls to serve for two years ; a general amnesty was declared ; public and private confidence was restored ; the people again gave utterance to their thoughts and feelings without fear or apprehension, and the stilled and stagnant nation-heart throbbed full and free, and sent forth shouts of joy in the happy security of freedom. The system of non-intercourse with the world was abandoned. A gradual distribution of the soldiery took place ; and they soon lost the feverish impulses of their military character, in the peaceful occupations of the citizen.

The first duties of the consuls were to declare the nation free and open to foreigners and commerce, and to make such regulations with their neighbors of Brazil and Buenos-Aires as would insure the recognition of the independence of their nation. This was imperatively necessary, to secure an egress to the ocean by way of the Paraná river, their natural and only commercial highway to the outer world. To this end they sent a commissioner to Buenos-Aires, in 1842. This gentleman was also charged with an application to our government, to recognize the independence of Paraguay, and proceed thereafter with such measures as would naturally follow. This was the first request of the kind ever made by the Paraguayan government, to any independent power beyond the confines of South America ; and I beg your especial attention to the fact, because it is my design to point out, by and by, the danger which the neglect of our government must incur, of driving this important and rising republic into the arms of England and France, if it is by long delay compelled to despair of our friendship and sympathy.

We have sufficiently shown how Dr. Francia shut up his own country, and also deprived the northern countries, Brazil and Bolivia, of all transit to the ocean. It should be recollected, moreover, that he established his power whilst the war for independence was still raging in the neighboring states ; and also that Brazil may be said to have come into existence but yesterday, her declaration being made in 1823, subsequent to those of the Spanish-American countries.

But Francia having died in 1840, and the government and its principles having been then changed in Paraguay, we have now to consider the reason why she has still remained virtually in the same situation, for the last eleven years. For the explanation we must look to the dictator of Buenos-Aires, the successor to the policy and to the crimes of the dictator of Paraguay, in the person of General D. Juan Manuel de Rosas.

The domestic struggle which has agitated the countries of the Rio de La Plata for the last twenty-five years, took its origin in that great and universal principle which has constantly agitated mankind since the first organization of society,—*the struggle between the progressive and conservative elements which characterize the natures of different men*; between the principles of preservation and improvement, on the right balance of which the quiet and well-being of society are suspended, often by too slender a thread. On the part of the Nomadic Gauchos of the pampas in the lower parts of South America, the principle of conservatism has taken the form of opposition to European emigration and civilization. It is the barbarism of the pampas, against the enlightenment of the cities; or, as an Argentine writer has quaintly expressed it, “the jacket against the long-tailed coat;” these two garments, in a manner similar to that in which we adopt popular political emblems, having become the distinctive representatives of the two sides of the question.

After alternate attempts to organize the country, these parties took the names of Unitarians and Federalists. The Unitarians, or progressive party, desiring a centralized form of government; and the Federalists, the friends of barbarism, a confederation. From discussion they soon came to blows; and after many reciprocal victories and defeats, the city of Buenos-Aires was taken by the Gauchos of the pampas, and Rosas, their leader, was finally installed in the government, in 1835, with dictatorial and irresponsible power. This power he has cemented by the usual means, and with the usual success; for brute force in him who commands, and servility and

hypocrisy in him who obeys, travel generally with parallel strides.

This man is charged with having founded clubs of licensed murderers, who assassinated and poisoned, one by one, his chief competitors, or drove them from the country. Certain it is, that the country over which Rosas has ruled so long has decreased in population; towns and cities are in ruins, public archives mutilated, and the liberty of the press but a delusive fancy; and public schools, colleges, and hospitals are all gone, robbed, annihilated. He has carried on this exterminating war without any strong or well-combined effort, but with that hard and haughty obstinacy which destroyed in men's hearts, affection as well as hope. A calculator cold as the womb of a snake, he is the imitator of Francia. A Machiavelli in policy,—as the Duke of Alba said when leaving Holland, so will Rosas say in this present hour of his tribulation, “all is lost from too much *lenity*.”

It is useless to talk about the necessity of governing the Argentine people, or any other portion of the human family in this manner: for a twelve years' knowledge of all parties among this people, and six years of personal acquaintance with Rosas and with all their prominent men, have taught me the contrary. Nor are these charges against Rosas false, or capable of extenuation, as he has so constantly said and published; for the eighteen years of his rule have brought the decimated Argentine nation, as one of themselves expresses it, almost to the condition of brutes. “They eat, sleep, keep silence, laugh if they can, and wait tranquilly, that in twenty years more their sons may walk on four feet.” And it is certain that even Rosas himself has never pretended to charge similar crimes upon his enemies; and I assert, from my own knowledge and the documentary evidence in my possession, that they have never committed them.

I have dwelt somewhat upon the conduct of Gen. Rosas, by way of preparation for the concluding part of my paper. I shall there show the importance of the present movement throughout eastern South America, and shall be enabled to prove to you its character, and satisfy you as to the degree of

confidence which may be placed in its professions and its ultimate results.

Under a system of government such as I have described, it may well be supposed that a permanent peace could never be established. The Unitarian party, like the caged bird, has constantly exerted itself to the utmost to open its wings ; and at each attempt it has only lacerated itself afresh against the iron bars of its prison. Yet, notwithstanding its sufferings, it brought Gen. Rosas, in 1840 and again in 1845, to the brink of destruction, on both which occasions he owed his safety to England and France.

The reception by Rosas of the Paraguayan application for recognition may well be imagined. That application has been refused, under frivolous and false pretexts, from that day to this ; and Paraguay itself has been blockaded by paper edicts, against which it had no resource. For so long as Rosas, by means of his minions, governed the provinces of Corrientes and Entre-Rios, to the northward of the Paraná, he controlled the seven hundred miles of its navigation, in the most absolute manner ; and Paraguay, deprived of all resources from without, and incapable of creating them within, has been obliged to keep as quiet as a lamb, whilst the U. S. Government, listening to the false representations of Rosas, has never, to this day, answered favorably the application of Paraguay for recognition. Thus Rosas, though always threatening to attack Paraguay, has never dared to do it ; but, from its geographical position, he has made it pass eleven years more of isolation from the world.

Furthermore, Rosas has been the constant obstacle to all advancement in his own country. He has never allowed any steam-vessel to ascend the Paraná to Corrientes, nor has he ever given a favorable answer to the numerous propositions for exclusive rights to steam navigation which have been made to him, from time to time, and by individuals of different nations ; for his power, founded upon those principles of barbarism which we have described, shuns the light of civilization and commercial concourse, and can only be upheld by the darkness of the tenth century.

Therefore the navigation of these magnificent avenues which intersect South America in all directions, has been confined to small boats and schooners, never exceeding two hundred tons, and generally of seventy or eighty tons burthen; the Paraguayan never descending, and the Argentine flag never ascending beyond the city of Corrientes. The only communication which, during my last two years' residence in Paraguay, we were permitted to have with the outer world, consisted of a monthly mail, carried by an Indian scout over the province of Corrientes, from San Borja, on the banks of the Uruguay, to Candelaria, on the Paraná. It is evident to the most superficial observer, that a state of things like this cannot last for ever, and that men's minds in those countries must be brought gradually to understand their own interests. But it has taken them a long time to learn that they must rely upon themselves, and cast aside all hopes from English intervention or French generosity, or American indifference. Nine years have thus been lost; and hopes have been excited and deferred, during this time, by *seven* different ministers plenipotentiary from the English and French governments, who have disgraced the character of those two powerful nations, and at last driven men to move and think for themselves. Thus tyranny, cruelty, and insatiable ambition have again and again shown themselves, ignorant of the laws which limit their destructive power. Gen. Rosas, after having thoroughly conquered his domestic enemies, should then have remained quiet within his own borders, and not have interfered with the domestic affairs of his neighbors. Whereas, he has caused or upheld civil war in Bolivia, Brazil, and the Banda-Oriental; and, while constantly intriguing in Chili also, has hoped at the same time to consume Paraguay by a gradual atrophy.

As soon as it was fully understood throughout South America that the French President, under British influence, wished to abandon the city of Monte-Video to the power of Gen. Oribe, the lieutenant of Rosas, the Brazilian Cabinet began to look about amongst her neighbors, to unite them all in one league against the aggressions of Rosas, and to secure, for all con-

cerned, the navigation of the rivers on firm and equal conditions. The first treaty was made in March last, with Paraguay; almost at the same time Monte-Video and the provinces of Corrientes and Entre-Rios all entered into the league, and they are bound to furnish, each and all, their quota of troops, and not to lay down their arms until the question of the navigation of the rivers is settled for ever. It is a movement of civilization, a natural and irresistible impulse of the human race in South America, against a retrograde and barbarous enemy of his kind.

It is to these allied States that we look for final success. The object could have been accomplished at any time, for Rosas has never been strong against foreign attacks. But the difficulty has been to unite interests, which, though common, were spread over such an immense extent of country, which was as yet almost without any intercommunication. This combination against Gen. Rosas has at length been effected with the most perfect success, and has thus far conquered all his partizans without firing a shot. Its character is clearly on the side of progress, civilization, and above all, humanity; for previous to this movement, lenity towards competitors, and mercy towards dreaded offenders, were undiscovered virtues.

At the present moment,* Rosas is without money, allies, or troops; and a universal defection of all in whom he has placed confidence is only the natural consequence of his cruel system. The allies against him, backed by the steam navy of Brazil, are now invading his own territory; and Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Corrientes, Entre-Rios, and the Banda-Oriental, for the first time since their existence as states, understand the vital necessity of prompt action. The war has ceased—or, rather, never existed—against the combined forces to the northward and eastward of the Paraná; and those who are about to invade the province of Buenos-Aires, represent nearly ten millions of men; whilst the whole Argentine Republic, supposing that all parties were faithful to Rosas, cannot count more than seven or eight hundred thousand souls.

* This was written in January, 1852.

The political condition, therefore, of Paraguay, Brazil, Corrientes, Entre-Rios, and Monte-Video, is one worthy of our utmost attention, sympathy, and respectful regard. They have published their intentions and determinations, which are in entire accord with the most humane principles; and their actions have been perfectly consistent with their professions. They have invited foreigners, with their capital and commerce, published decrees regulating tariffs and custom-houses, and offered special rewards and exclusive rights for the introduction of steam, and all useful machines and implements of every kind, the produce of the industry of other countries.

PRESENT CONDITION.

In reference to the present condition of these countries, it may well be imagined that there is room for great improvement. Yet if we speak of the elements to improve upon, it would be difficult to imagine any part of the world where they exist in greater or more spontaneous profusion. Bolivia, Brazil, and Paraguay, are the agricultural regions which must chiefly nourish the richest commerce, while the regions nearer the Atlantic Ocean yield all the productions of an enormous extent of pastoral countries. It is in the higher lands, up the rivers, where European emigration must find a home, and a field for congenial pursuits, which would not interfere with those of the native inhabitants. The knowledge which prevails among them about agriculture, is meagre in the extreme; and although in Paraguay they are principally an agricultural people, they know very little of the science. They are in the greatest want, too, of all our agricultural implements; upon each one of which, the introducer would receive a patent for ten years.

PRODUCTIONS OF THE COUNTRY.

Beginning with the head waters of the river Paraguay, we find the productions upon the Brazilian side to be, gold and precious stones, sugar, molasses, hides of extraordinary size, hair, tallow, wax, deer and tiger-skins, with rice, corn, and

the different manufactures of the mandioca root; in Bolivia, gold and precious stones, silver, coffee—considered by good judges to be equal to mocha—and Peruvian bark. Though, undoubtedly, we could draw from these two countries many other productions of tropical America, yet it is in Paraguay that we find the greatest wealth of all these valleys.

Of this country and its commercial resources, I can speak with the greatest certainty, from my own personal knowledge. Almost divided by the tropic of Capricorn, its surface is like a chess-board, checkered here and there with beautiful pastures and magnificent forests. Unlike all other lands with which I am acquainted, it seems destined especially for the habitation of man. Here, in the eastern portion of our own land, the first settlers found the whole country covered with woods; west of the Mississippi the other extreme exists, in the vast extent of prairie, destitute of timber. On the north of Brazil, in a similar manner, are unbroken forests; in its southern parts, and throughout the Banda-Oriental, Entre-Rios, Corrientes, and the Argentine Republic, we find continuous pampas, like our prairies, in many instances without bearing the necessary fuel even for household purposes. Not so in Paraguay, where, added to a sufficiency for building fleets of a thousand steamers, its forests teem with every description of ornamental and useful woods.

The vegetable kingdom of Paraguay presents the richest attractions, not merely to the professional botanist, but to that important class which is devoted to mercantile enterprise. The medicinal herbs which abound in the greatest profusion, are rhubarb, sarsaparilla, jalap, bryonia indica, sassafras, holywood, dragons' blood, balsam of copaiba, nux vomica, liquorice, and ginger. Of dye-stuffs, too, there is an immense variety. The cochineal, which is indeed an insect, but requiring for its food a species of the cactus plant; two distinct kinds of indigo; vegetable vermilion; saffron; golden rod; with other plants, producing all the tints of dark red, black, and green. Many of the forest trees yield valuable gums, not yet familiar to commerce or medicine; and they comprise some of the most

delicious perfumes and incense that can be imagined. Others again are like amber, hard, brittle, and insoluble in water. Some cedars yield a gum equal to gum Arabic ; others a natural glue, which, when once dried, is unaffected by wet or dampness. The *seringa*, or rubber tree, the product of which is now almost a monopoly with Pará, and also the palo santo, which produces the gum guiacum, crowd the forests, ready to give up their riches to the first comer ; and the sweet-flavored vanilla modestly flourishes, as if inviting the hand of man.

Upon the hills, the celebrated yerba matté, which is the exclusive beverage of one-half of South America, has only to be gathered. Its preparation is in an exceedingly crude state, and could be beneficially improved by employing some of our corn-mills ; and probably its use could be introduced into this country with advantage.

Upon the fertile alluvial banks of so many large streams, sugar-cane, cotton, tobacco, of a superior quality, rice, mandioca, Indian-corn, and a thousand other productions, vegetate with profusion ; whilst seven varieties of the bamboo, line the river banks and dot the frequent lakes with islets of touching beauty. On the plains, quantities of hides, hair, horns, bones, tallow, &c., are lost for want of transportation. If we go to the forests, we find two or three kinds of hemp, vast quantities of wax, the *Nux saponica*, or soap-nut, the cocoa, and vegetable oils in abundance, with two kinds of wild cotton, admirably adapted for the manufacture of paper. But it is with the forest trees of Paraguay that I love most to dwell. Giants ! there they are, vast and noble in their aspect, and able, as it were, to utter for themselves the sublime music of the wilderness. Sixty varieties already known, furnish timber of all kinds, and colors, and degrees of durability, elasticity, and buoyancy. I have seen timbers of the LAPACHIO that have supported the roofs of houses in Buenos-Aires for more than two hundred years. They are now as sound as ever, and, to all appearance, capable of performing the same service to the end of the world. A door-sill of the same wood, half imbedded in the ground, and marked "1632," belonged to the front

door of the house which I inhabited in the city of Asunçion. Upon the closest inspection, it was in a state of perfect preservation. Several other woods of this same variety are so heavy as to sink in water, and all, while difficult to burn in houses, form, under the force of a strong draught, a fire almost equal to stone-coal in intensity. Another tree, the SEIBO, when green is spongy and soft as cork, and can be cut like an apple; but, when dry, it is so hard as almost to defy the action of steel. Again, we have the *Palo de vivora*, or snake-tree, whose leaves are an infallible cure for the poisonous bites of serpents. The *Palo de léche*, or milk-tree, may be called a vegetable cow; and the *Palo de borracho*, or drunken-tree, a vegetable distillery. The içica resin is found at the roots of trees under ground, and is a natural pitch, ready prepared to pay the seams of vessels.

But I have probably said enough on this part of my subject. My object has been to exhibit a slight sketch of the great wealth of Paraguay; a country to which the prophetic eye of the great founder of the Jesuits was turned, only nine years after the issue of the Papal bull which established the order, and where his followers enjoyed, for one hundred and eighty-six years, the greatest power and wealth which it has ever been their portion to possess at any time, or in any part of the world. To this end I have mentioned roots, gums, woods, and vegetables enough. We have found the forests spontaneously producing every thing necessary for the comfort and luxury of mankind, from the beautiful cotton-tree that affords him clothing, to the colors which suit his fancy as a dye; and from the woods that furnish his ship and house, or ornament his *ecritoire*, to the herb that cures his sickness, or the incense that delights his olfactories. It is only necessary to add, that the climate is favorable to all the useful grains and table vegetables, with delicious fruits to support the frame and gratify the palate.

POPULATION AND CHARACTER.

Of the *Anthropology* of Paraguay I have said nothing. BLUMENBACH himself would be puzzled to tell the original of some of the mongrel breeds to be found there. But the upper classes have ever been more regardful of their blood than in any other part of Spanish or Portuguese America. They are brave, stout, and healthy, hospitable and simple-hearted in the ordinary relations of life, and exceedingly intelligent and keen in business affairs. Perfect confidence in the government and subordination to the laws, are two of their cardinal virtues; and security for life and property is the blessed consequence. Tyranny enough they have already suffered to have learned to escape its toils in future; and their chief desire is to learn those arts which may conduce to their comfort and happiness, and elevate their country to its proper position among the nations of the world. In return for that knowledge their commerce will bring to us much that we have never seen, and will cheapen, for our manufactures, what we already import from other parts of South America; while to the naturalist and the historian the most extensive fields, of undeveloped richness and inexpressible beauty, will open at command.

As for the character of CARLOS ANTONIO LOPEZ, the President of Paraguay, I must not quit his country without passing a just eulogium upon his talents and patriotism. For a man who has never passed the frontier of his country, he is really remarkable. He has been stained by no arbitrary bloodshed; and even under the circumstances which I described, of isolation from all the world, he has reformed and advanced his country in no ordinary degree. Its whole constitution, civil, political, and religious, is the work of his hands; and his decrees for the furtherance of commerce and agriculture, show a spirit of enlightenment rarely exhibited under similar circumstances. However much remains to be done, he knows that it must be done slowly; that too rapid an improvement

must stand upon an insecure basis, which may crumble away and leave but its ruins behind.

Pursuing our route from Paraguay down the river Paraná, we pass the provinces of Corrientes and Entre-Rios, pastoral regions, whose development has been retarded, or rather stopped, by the Dictator of Buenos-Aires. In subjecting them to such custom-house regulations as he wished; in forcing them to carry their produce to Buenos-Aires, and there to receive his worthless paper money in return, he has driven them to understand the exclusiveness of a system which, under the name of "Federal," he has made more despotically centralized than his worst opponent of the Unitarian party ever desired.

OPENING FOR TRADE.

Under a free navigation for these delightful regions, their exports must double within six months, and a new impulse be given to all their affairs.

The commercial tendencies of all this section of country lean toward the United States, for many reasons. In the first place, we are, for our numbers, beyond all comparison the greatest consuming people of the earth. Whilst commerce with us adds to their wealth and comfort, that of England, our only rival, drains from them their very life-blood. We sell on barter or exchange, and many times have to pay the difference in specie, whilst the English sell their manufactures for good paper on time, and when the hard money is paid, it is not long in leaving the country and becoming embalmed in the vaults of the Bank of England.

Again, we are undoubtedly better acquainted with the wants and the means of development of new countries, than the older nations of Europe. It is also certain, we presume, that our manufactures, machinery, and agricultural implements, are better adapted for the wants of nascent communities, where labor is excessively dear, than can be the case in the old world, where the overcrowded masses are struggling for employment, and for the right to exist.

Furthermore, these regions produce spontaneously, many valuable articles of commerce, for which we are now almost exclusively dependent upon the British East-Indian possessions, paying for them such a price as the English choose to demand. It is for this reason that the British Government has regulated its policy so as to support the barbarous system of Rosas; whilst, at the same time, she has endeavored to make such treaties as would secure her the precedence, should he ever fall from power.

Again, all those productions of these valleys which European commerce requires, could be furnished to Europe by way of the United States, in less time, and consequently at less expense, than they can be by going direct, no matter whether we use steam or sailing vessels. But so long as England uses steam, and we use only sails, then we can communicate in less time (that is to say, once a month with Monte-Video and Buenos-Aires), by way of England, than direct from this city.

A study of the wind and current charts of my distinguished friend Mr. Maury, of the National Observatory at Washington, as well as the statistics of voyages from the Rio de La Plata to New York, and any point of Europe, will amply prove this assertion.

Then, again, all the productions of Bolivia which reach any Atlantic market, are obliged to be carried across the Andes on mules, and exported at Cobija, the only port which she possesses; and, doubling Cape Horn, at length they reach us, loaded with such expenses as almost completely kills any attempt of that fertile country to produce any thing which may compete with similar productions in the commerce of the world.

Upon political grounds, also, I hope to convince you that the commercial tendencies of South America, set strongly in our favor, though our Government has much to do to make up for the faults of the past.

The world contains only three great commercial nations, one of which is rapidly being swallowed up by the other two.

Two of these nations, England and France, have constantly interfered in the Rio de La Plata; and, though from different motives, they have both contributed in producing one monotonous result: that of continuing a state of anarchy and confusion, and creating a natural hatred and distrust of other governments. Yet, whilst the conduct of the British has produced a strong feeling against individuals of that nation, the conduct of the French has produced a strong sympathy for them, assisted by similarity in religion, language, and philosophy. The high-handed capture of the Falkland Islands by the British, and the English settlements in the straits of Magellan; the singular manner in which England withdrew from the combined intervention against Rosas, as if striving to throw upon France the odium of its failure; the servility of her representatives in Buenos-Aires and Monte-Video, together with her loans of money to starving governments at an exorbitant interest,—all these things have ruined her hopes of commercial success, save when backed by the cannon of her fleets.

In the meantime, men's minds are convinced of the great mistake which was made in listening to the enticing words of Mr. Canning; and they are anxiously desiring to strengthen those bonds of commercial communication with us, long ago formed by Messrs. Clay, Monroe, and Adams, and afterwards so unfortunately neglected by their successor, General Jackson. They are awakening to the fact, that with us they have no political intrigues to fear, and that our commercial competition is most for their advantage; and that though we have pursued a timid, irresolute, and time-serving policy with General Rosas, we have never injured, save by sins of omission, any party or any man.

In fact, our only sources of complaint have been against General Rosas; and our complaints have been legitimate and just, although circumstances have held them in abeyance; whilst European attacks against him, always misrepresented in this country by his mendacious press, have produced among us a feeling of sympathy for the position of the man. He has

refused to pay or arrange the American claims, which have been pending against Buenos-Aires ever since 1828. He has placed such a duty upon American flour as amounts to a prohibition; he has forbidden our vessels to carry passengers from Buenos-Aires; and he has constantly refused to make treaties with us, under pretense that he did not possess the requisite power of ratification.

Yet, in the face of all this, he has made and signed treaties with England and France; he has given to the British packets an exclusive right of carrying passengers from Buenos-Aires; and he has permitted those vessels to delay the delivery of their mails, except to interested parties, even for as long as three days after their arrival. At the same time, he has cajoled the American Government, by throwing himself upon their generosity; he has procured the trial of Captain Voorhies, of the United States Frigate *Congress*, and had him suspended for an act which was a noble vindication of our national honor against his arrogant extortions; and he has managed to prevent all attention being paid, by the American Government or people, to the cause of Paraguay. This American sympathy has been the only one which has sustained him among the nations of the earth,—he, whose power built upon constant war and agitation as an occupation for his Gaucho soldiers, has never known a moment's peace,—he is the one to whom we can trace, infallibly, all the difficulties of the last twenty years on the Rio de La Plata.

However, I trust that the time has come when these subjects will be better understood among us. They certainly will be, when our interests are more widely extended in those parts of the world. Then we shall feel that Paraguay—the richest of those countries in all that conduces to the comfort and happiness of mankind—is really the most powerful element in the affairs of the Rio de La Plata, from this time forward; and that, being the *element of order, and peace, and progress herself*, she will necessarily influence her neighbors for good, in no small degree.

There are still other considerations of the greatest weight

connected with this subject, which I must be excused for touching upon with freedom. I am aware that, throughout our community, great reluctance is felt to place property of value in the hands of the Spanish race upon this continent; and precedents are not wanting to prove that reclamations, pending before our government on this score, have dragged their weary length along, oftentimes leaving the claimants nothing to live upon but the empty deceptions of hope. Pope Paul IV. is reported to have said that the Spanish race was "the dregs of the earth,—an infamous *mélange* of the Jew and the Arab." (*Lavallée Hist. des Français*, vol. II., p. 340.) Yet it must be recollected that popes have not always spoken the truth; and, besides, what might have been true then, is not necessarily true now. Nations change through time and circumstances; and there are decided signs that the state of the Spanish race on the shores of the Plata is changing at the present moment. I confess myself a believer in the philosophical truths of history, which convince us that the universal laws of decay and reproduction, belong alike to individuals and to nations, as well as to the whole animate and inanimate creation besides. But, as yet, the unmistakable signs of decay which belong to the old world, have no home among us of the new. The very necessities of mankind must fill up our boundless wastes sooner or later. As also in the lives of individuals, so in those of nations, crises occur over which man himself has no control. Now, Europe labors under the weight of the most terrible that has ever fallen to her lot since the creation of the world. Her oppressed millions will not all stand in hopeless anguish, whilst the New World opens to their longing gaze its countless acres for their occupation, and whilst its cheerful soil brings forth spontaneously all the wealth-bearing productions of every clime.

The movement of French, Italian, and German emigration towards the region of the Plata, already considerable, must augment, for many reasons, in a far greater ratio than we have ever known it with us. The sympathetic feelings of affection and protection will take out there thousands whose parents,

relations, or friends, have already emigrated ; whilst the price of land is much less than in this country, and the sympathies of race, religion, customs, and language, for two of the three above-mentioned nations, naturally lead them thither. This emigration, composed of the best elements, for our purposes, which European society contains, must only increase by each domestic convulsion or despotic encroachment ; and I know, from facts that came to my knowledge in Paris, that large arrangements are already entered into for emigration during the coming season.

These emigrants will not, as many persons too hastily imagine, become elements of disorder in their new home ; for those portions of the New World furnish no incentives to anarchy, while they offer every reward for honest labor. Nor is it true that because they are often elements of anarchy at home, under the pressure of want and idleness, their conduct will be the same where no such pressure exists. On the contrary, I am satisfied that, as they have already preserved, so they will contribute to increase, the element of civilization in South America ; and I am equally convinced that they must absorb, in a few generations, the two or three millions of natives, who, proud and disdainful with few exceptions, refuse to learn from others, and have no idea of advancing themselves. Thus, under proper management, we may expect to see a new nation, truly republican, rising up on the shores of the Plata, within a few years, founded upon the *debris* of liberty in the Old World, and without containing in its elements the only plague-spot to be found upon our own incomparable body politic.

That the people and government of the United States may be properly represented in the future of these magnificent countries, now that they have the opportunity of so doing, they should move the *first and foremost* in the matter. The order of Providence seems to have constituted us the protector and teacher of the other parts of our hemisphere ; and it is a duty which we have hitherto but poorly performed. Again, it is the evident policy of our government to protect

all small states from the encroachments of their more powerful neighbors, *as far as they can do so by diplomatic action*; and the more especially, when they desire it themselves, as in the case of Paraguay and Monte-Video. In reference to this latter state, I have said nothing. But to make more evident still the great supineness of some of our past administrations, I will state that Monte-Video has always been the last refuge of civilization, and the only constant upholder of constitutional government on the shores of the Plata. Yet, although such has been her character, as I am amply able to prove, she has never met with any notice or favor from us; but the contrary. I have now among my papers some records, procured from the files of the Oriental Legation at Paris during my late visit there, and which cannot be untrue. They are a correspondence, under date of December 14, 1841, between Señor Ellauri, the Oriental Minister, and General Cass, our minister at Paris, in which the former, in accordance with special instructions and powers which he had received for that purpose, offers to make a treaty of friendship, commerce, and navigation, with the United States. This, be it remarked, was in a time of profound peace for the Banda Oriental, and whilst General Rosas was engaged in subduing the upper Argentine provinces. General Cass states his want of instructions, and applies to his government. His government—that is, the government of the United States—answers him, and he replies to the Oriental Minister, under date of March 5th, 1842: “I have been instructed to inform you that, although the United States are desirous to extend and improve commercial and friendly relations with the governments of the Western Hemisphere, and to place them under the high sanction of conventional stipulations; yet, under existing circumstances, and particularly while war continues between the Argentine Republic and your Government, and while that region is in an unsettled and unquiet state, the moment does not seem favorable to the development of its resources, nor to the formation of new diplomatic relations with other countries. The President of the United States, therefore, thinks

it necessary to defer to a more favorable opportunity, the further expression of his amicable disposition towards the Oriental Republic, and the negotiations for the regulation of its intercourse with the United States."

In a letter to me, of October 30, 1851, Señor Ellauri says, "I ought to make you notice a very especial circumstance it is, that the only nation with which my government has taken the initiative to invite them to celebrate treaties of friendship, commerce, and navigation, has been that of the United States; with all others, we ourselves have been the invited parties, even by England."

Thus, then, we have seen that the Banda Oriental sought our connection in 1842; Paraguay, in 1843—*both of which states have been treated with complete indifference.* For this we owe them at least some reparation; and to call the attention and speculation of all persons to beautiful and fertile South America, it is only necessary for the government of the United States to give to these countries that impulse which is the indispensable element of civilization and of Christianity. With such friendly aid as it can supply, a sudden metamorphosis will transform the face of these countries. The power of steam will reproduce upon their waters the wonderful results which have marked its introduction among ourselves, and which to our benighted brethren of South America appear but the phantasy of a dream. If we lead them to adopt those modes of commerce for which they have such unsurpassed yet unexplored advantages, we shall open to them a new era of grandeur and happiness, of which they cannot form as yet any adequate conception.

In four days a steamboat could run up from Monte-Video to Asunción, and in eight days to the interior of Bolivia and Brazil. A shorter time will carry the return voyager to the mouth of the Rio de la Plata, after having touched, in both trips, at the many cities and villages upon the banks, leaving in them the spirit of life and wealth, and through these the benefits of education and refinement.

The time has arrived when all things tend, in the old

world and in the new, to the realization of these most magnificent projects ; in a word, to the opening of an entire new world to our enterprise. Why let the opportunity slip from our grasp, to be certainly seized upon, in a few months, by our only rivals, the English ?

The best commercial statistics fully prove what I advance. For in 1842, when not half a dozen individuals in each port of the United States had a dollar invested in the Rio de la Plata, the American tonnage which had arrived in the port of Monte-Video for the seven previous years, amounted to 113,696 tons, and fell short of the British by only 57,586 tons. For the year 1842—a year of peace—the total of the imports and exports of Monte-Video, with only a small back country, and without any aid from Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Corrientes, or Entre-Rios, amounted to \$22,558,762 ; of which the Americans had the third share. Thus, if under circumstances of governmental abandonment and general want of confidence we did thus much, what ought we to do now ?

I do not surpass probability when I say, that the appearance of an American river-steamboat in those waters would increase our exportations to these regions a million of dollars the first year, and that this amount would double every six months thereafter, for a considerable period of time. This boat would procure the exclusive right for the navigation of these waters, from Bolivia, Brazil, and Paraguay ; and the company, during the existence of their monopoly, could control, in every respect, all imports and exports.

I have said that the attention of the English merchants is largely drawn to this important question. As far back as 1845, the South American merchants of that country, petitioned the Queen to force open the navigation of the Paraná (in the same manner as their countrymen procured a trade with China) ; “ because,” said they, “ in a few years its trade will be only second to that of your Majesty’s East-Indian possessions.”

They said well ; for the southern provinces of the empire of Brazil, Paraguay, and Bolivia, and the other territories

watered by the tributaries of the Plata, offer to a legitimate commercial ambition, nearly nine hundred thousand miles square, of virgin lands, very much more profitably situated for commercial intercourse with the globe than the Chinese empire, owing to their superior geographical, as well as social, position. In China we are obliged to struggle against a traditional policy which repels the foreigner, and against a high industrial development which rejects almost all our manufactured goods, with the exception of *such as come from the national mint*; besides which, the Chinese are generally short-lived, and infanticide is common among them. In South America, on the contrary, we find a fresh population, ignorant of the words *economy*, *scarcity*, because they know not *want*. These people, the reverse of the Chinese, expect the wants as well as they demand the benefits which civilization brings in its train. Therefore we ought not, cannot remain deaf to the appeal which they make us. *Shame* should hinder us from permitting the English to be considered, on any part of our own continent, as the head of civilization and all progress rather than ourselves.

In vain has a third of a century passed since we conferred upon these people the blessings of national independence. In vain have opposing interests labored for a long time to efface the remembrance of this our noble act. In vain have our own errors come in aid of those interests which are opposed to us. The name of Henry Clay, as the champion of South American independence, still survives among them. It is only necessary to give to this remembrance a proper tendency, and it will revivify and spread abroad; it will infuse itself into the ideas and the manners, into the material and moral wants of those people who love us, that we may become the law of their interests; for this is what their sympathies demand.

Contrast opportunities and feelings like these, with the proportionate dislike of the snares of monarchical influences, from which they have suffered so much. Consider, in addition, the hopeless debt and consequent oppression, in one form or another, under the apprehension of which all the nations of South America, except Paraguay and Chili, so

heavily labor; and our view into the future, of what we ought to do and can do, becomes clear and distinct. The time for talking is over. If we do not wish to be distanced, anticipated, superseded, we must act, and act without delay.

If we follow on in the path thus open before us, emigration and steam will speedily call into action those sympathies of which I just now spoke. Incomparable instruments of peaceful revolution, they promise to these magnificent countries the most abundant development for the happiness of the human race. Under their vigorous impulse, solitudes will be peopled, inertness will become action, and the earth will yield its fruits an hundred fold. The travels and investigations of scientific men, the introduction of machinery and new means of labor, together with a new spirit of energy and enterprise, will bless all persons with new discoveries of unbounded usefulness, before unknown. Thus resting upon those solid foundations which alone can give a permanent existence to liberty, a new *terra firma* of prosperity and peace will rapidly loom up from among the sinking billows of discord and civil war, which have so long swept in all their fury over some of the fairest regions on the face of the earth.

In conclusion, I wish it to be distinctly understood, though I have made some forcible statements, and made therefrom my own deductions, that I do not desire to wound the prejudices or the partialities of any person whatever. I trust that I have spoken in accordance with the opportunities of information which I have enjoyed, and in conformity to the principles of human progress and humanity.

The American people seem to be very desirous at the present moment to extend the *area of freedom*. Some have gone to Cuba, and the Sandwich Islands. Others would like to go to Hungary and even to Moscow, notwithstanding its bad reputation as a winter residence for an invading force. And it is only a little of this spirit, differently applied, which I have desired to see extend itself to South America.

NOTE.—Mr. Hopkins has used, throughout his memoir, the orthography of the language in which the different places therein mentioned have been named. His reasons for declining to Angliceize proper names, in reference to geography, may probably be made the subject of a future paper before the Society.

SECOND SITTING.

Pursuant to general notice, the meeting was held at the Chapel, University, on the 13th of April. The President in the chair. Having called the meeting to order, the President remarked :

“Every thing which relates to culture or science, to philosophy or fine arts—every thing which can elevate, refine, or adorn life, deserves to be cherished and developed in the United States more than in any country in the world. It is a consideration that ought to weigh with every patriot, how the efforts of the public should be concentrated and made to bring about results which are so desirable. In other countries there are bodies of men—an aristocracy or a fixed government—which concentrate efforts, guide them, encourage and reward them. But in this country we are all equal, and all should, therefore, learn how to meet on equal terms, and labor to secure to the universal man, to the common mind, to the people of the United States, all the benefits which can emanate from the highest degree of culture.

“With reference to the city to which it is our happiness to belong, it should not be forgotten that it has attained to a distinction in the world such as no city ever attained in time past in so short a period. It will be found to be a fact, that the commerce of this one port, New York, to-day, is greater, vastly greater than was all the commerce of Great Britain at the time when Cook was sent out to make his discoveries in the Pacific Ocean. If, then, we measure our responsibilities by the position to which we have attained, we should at last come to the conviction that we are bound to do something to concentrate that information which is obtained from so many quarters respecting our globe. We should have an interest, too, in every thing which relates to our fellow-men.

“The deep interest, too, that is taken in piety, in the spiritual

welfare of every nation of mankind, is one of the characteristics of American life. There is no part of the world in which so lively and deep an interest is taken in promoting the dissemination of religion, of religious truth, among all the nations of the earth, as is manifested in the United States. Assuredly, therefore, we ought to find means to come to some auspicious results in the project we have entered upon.

“This Society, humble in its origin and unassuming in its pretensions, consists of men who desire to advance those ends, and who are willing to become the servants of the public, making themselves as useful as they can according to their limited means and circumstances. Kindred societies, like the Historical Society of New York, have done much, but the field for kindred labors is yet extensive. Let it be, if modestly, faithfully improved by the members of this Society.”

Mr. Leavitt, chairman of the Executive Committee reported that a Room had been taken for the Society in the University. Also, that the Executive Committee had organized four permanent Sub-Committees, and proposed to issue a Bulletin of the Society's transactions, after the manner of the Geographical Society of Paris.

The Committee upon the Charter and By-Laws reported that the charter had passed both Houses of the Legislature. Both the charter and the by-laws prepared by the committee, were unanimously approved.

Mr. Pierrepont presented to the Society a Map from Fred. Prime, Esq., of West Chester Co.

P. Chaix's Alps.—“Panorama des Alpes; vues de Celigny, sur la terrasse de la campagne Bernard, à 434 metres au-dessus de la Mer, et 59 au-dessus du niveau du Lac. Dessiné par P. Chaix. Genève, 1850.

Dr. Hawks made some remarks on the great objects of the Society—the vastness of our country and its duties; remarking that whatever tends to entertain us intellectually, advances our usefulness and happiness. Dr. Hawks then presented to the Society the following Maps:

1. The seat of war in the West Indies, published by Foster, London, in 1730, containing—

- (1) A Map of the *West Indies*, from the best Spanish charts.
- (2) Plan of the Harbor of *Havana*, from surveys of Admiral Vernon.
- (3) „ „ *Vera Cruz*, from Spanish surveys.
- (4) „ „ *Carthagena*, „ „
- (5) „ „ *Porto Bello*, „ „
- (6) „ „ *St. Augustine*, „ „

2. Larger Plan of *Porto Bello*, with Admiral Vernon's attack, drawn by Lieutenant Durell; published by Harding, London, 1740.

3. Larger Plan of Carthagena, with English attack, drawn by Laws; published by Harding, London, 1741.

4. Plan of attacks upon St. Lucie, in 1778; published by Bowles, London, 1779.

5. Larger Plan of Havana and its environs, both on land and water, with the several attacks of the English, 1762; Boydell, London, 1762.

6. A Chart of the Straits and Bay of Gibraltar, with a plan of the Town and Fortifications; Sayer and Bennett, London, 1779.

7. Map of the United States, with the British and Spanish Territories according to the treaty (at the close of the revolution); Published by Faden, London, 1783. NOTE. This map has the northeastern boundary laid down as it was then understood; it was referred to in the debates in Parliament, and sustains the American claim, as it was asserted, before the subject was settled by the Ashburton Treaty.

8. Faden's Map of the Province of New Jersey, compiled from official surveys, by Lieutenant Ratzer and Gerard Bernekee, London, 1777.

9. Topographical Chart of the Bay of Narragansett, with all the Isles contained thereon, among which Rhode Island and Connonicut have been particularly surveyed. This Chart was made by Blaskowitz, under the order of the principal farmers of Rhode Island, and is very carefully done; published by Faden, London, 1777.

PLANS CONNECTED WITH THE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

10. Plan of the Town and Harbor of Boston, with the country adjoining and the road from Boston to Concord, showing the place of the engagement between the King's troops and the Provincials; together with the several encampments of both armies, in and about Boston, taken from actual survey, by De Corter; published by Hand, London, 1775. The English account, and of course more rare and valuable.

11. Sketch of the action between the British forces and the American Provincials, on the Hights and Peninsula of Charlestown, June 17th, 1775; published by Jeffreys and Faden, August, 1775 (from the English account).

12. Plan of the operations of the King's army, under the command of General Sir William Howe, in New York and New Jersey, against the American forces, commanded by General Washington, from October 12th, to

November 28th, 1776; wherein is particularly distinguished the engagement on White Plains, October 28th; prepared by Southier; published by Faden, 1777.

Mr. Leavitt read a letter of Colonel J. D. Graham, of the U. S. Engineers, addressed to Mr. Blunt, presenting to the Society a pamphlet copy of a message of the Governor of Maryland, transmitting the reports of the State Commissioners and Colonel Graham, on the intersection of the boundary lines of Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Delaware; with a Map.

The elaborate verification of the line of the twelve miles circle, from the center of New Castle, and the point of contact of the eastern line of Maryland with that circle, showing that the junction of the boundaries of the three States is not at the northeastern angle of Maryland, but at a point three miles and nine hundred and ninety-nine and nine-tenths yards south of the angle. The whole proceeding is reported with great particularity, including a re-examination of Mason and Dixon's line. It was ascertained that several persons who had always supposed themselves to be citizens of Delaware, were in fact citizens of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Disturnell presented two Maps to the Society :

1. A new and accurate map of North America, including the British acquisitions gained by the late war, 1763. All the territory lying south of Ottawa river, C. W., is included in the original British Provinces, with all the lakes below the falls of St. Marie. New England extends to the St. Lawrence. West of Lake Superior, the 48th parallel of latitude is laid down as the northern boundary of New England, by the charter of 1620. Pennsylvania includes a tract lying north of Lake Erie.

2. Chart of the northwestern coast of America and the northeastern coast of Asia, explored in the years 1778-9, prepared by Lieutenant H. Roberts, under the immediate inspection of Captain Cook. Published by Faden, London, 1784.

Thanks were voted to Mr. Prime, Dr. Hawks, Colonel Graham, and Mr. Disturnell, for their donations.

DISCOVERIES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Mr. Leavitt then read the paper of the evening, being a letter from Rev. David Livingston, D. D., an English missionary in South Africa, giving an account of his recent discoveries in that region. Mr. Leavitt introduced the letter with a brief statement of the course of discovery in Southeastern Africa, beyond the bounds of the colony.

The first explorer in these regions was the late Rev. John Campbell, who, in the year 1820, penetrated as far as Lattakoo, lat. 28° south, where the celebrated Moffatt afterwards planted his mission, supported by the London Missionary Society. Some years ago a new mission was established at Kolobeng, two hundred miles beyond Lattakoo, or Kuruman, as it is called, lat. 25° south and lon. $26'$ east, by and Rev. David Livingston, a son-in-law of Mr. Moffatt.

In the month of June, 1849, two English travelers, Captain Oswell and Mr. Murray, came out by agreement, to unite with Mr. Livingston in an exploring tour still further into the interior. After a journey of about three hundred miles, going first northeast and then northwest, they struck, on the 4th of July, the fine river Zonga, and followed its course about two hundred miles till they reached the lake Ngami, so long an object of desire to travelers. They were prevented from crossing the river to explore the rivers coming in from the north, through the opposition of the chief of the Bataoana people, and were reluctantly obliged to turn back from the lake without any further discoveries.

In 1851, Captain Oswell revisited Africa, and he and Dr. Livingston resumed their exploration under more favorable circumstances and with more satisfactory results. The accounts of discoveries made, with a map, were sent by Captain Oswell to the Royal Geographical Society in London, where we learn they have been received with great interest. Mr. Livingston wrote a letter to his brother in this country, Rev. Charles Livingston, of Plympton, Massachusetts, which has

been referred to the American Geographical and Statistical Society. A copy of Oswell's map was also sent by Mr. L. to Mr. Colton, the map publisher, 86 Cedar street, who kindly loaned it for the occasion. His son, Mr. George Colton, also transferred the principal delineations to a sheet of his large map of Africa, which was exhibited to the meeting.

MR. LIVINGSTON'S LETTER.

BANKS OF THE ZONGA, Oct. 8th, 1851.

MY DEAR C.: I informed you by a letter sent back from B., that we had started for the country of Sebitoane; and now that we are on our return, after having been honored to look at what we believe to be the main branch of the Zambesi, you will be expecting to hear "all about it."

We followed our old route, only diverging a little in order to visit Sekhomi, in his sickness. Sekhomi was gratified by our attentions, &c., and we found his good graces of essential service to us at a subsequent period of the journey. You may remember he obstructed us in our endeavor to discover the lake. But now, had we not enjoyed his countenance we should either have found immense difficulty in reaching Sebitoane, or failed altogether.

Leaving our old path at Netskotea (on the Zonga), with Bamajuato guides, we proceeded nearly due north, and crossed the dry bed of the Zonga. Beyond that we came to a great number of salt-pans covered with a thin efflorescence of salt and lime. Each has a spring of brackish water on one side of it. The continual deposit for centuries, of the salt these waters contain, would explain that efflorescence, but several of them are thickly strewed with shells, which would seem to indicate that the Zonga had formerly emptied itself into them. The country beyond is covered with mopane trees, and contains a great number of springs in limestone rock. I suspect they are supplied by percolation from the rivers in the north. The leaves of the mopane tree are peculiar, and swarms of little insects make their abodes on them. They make a little dwelling, in shape like a cockle-shell, but very small, of a sweet,

gummy substance. The people collect this gum in large quantities, and use it as food.

BUSHMEN—SHOBO.

Bushmen abound near these springs ; they were all in good condition ; they seem to kill lots of game. What a language theirs is ! so much klick in it, and the klicking sound is formed by pressing the tongue on the roof of the mouth and suddenly withdrawing it ; Russian, I should say, is softer than Italian compared with Bush. I have often wished I knew it, and never more than when furnished with a Bushman guide called Shobo, who could only muster a few words in Sitchuana. They are a merry race, always in good humor, and never tell lies wantonly as the other natives do ; they exist in vast numbers, and are spread over the whole country.

Shobo was no exception to his countrymen in these parts, but we could not understand his jokes. We went three days without water, through an excessively difficult tract of country ; and, in order to avoid the heat, we traveled mostly by night. As the whole country was quite flat and covered with low bush, Shobo wandered. We saw by the stars that he was varying to all points of the compass, and then, when he became tired of following elephants' paths, that went he knew not whither, he would coolly double himself up in the path and go to sleep. "Do you know where you are, Shobo?" "Perhaps we are here, perhaps there, I don't know ; all water, all country ;" and then he would smile so good naturedly that it was impossible to feel vexed with him.

The above words were nearly all he could say in Sitchuana, and were repeated constantly. On the fourth day, however, we came to the trail of a rhinoceros, and this being one of the animals that cannot live without water, we put the cattle on the track, and in the afternoon the perishing animals reached the river Mahabi. This is a small branch of the Tso, and flows east-north-east. It is lost in a reedy swamp ten miles broad, near which there is a Banajoa and some Bakaba villages. We were informed by Chombo, the head man of the

Banajoa, that there were two paths to Sebitoane's river ; by the one we should have other three days without water, and by the other we should pass through a patch of country abounding in Tsetse. I suspect this is the "zimb," mentioned by Bruce. It is the scourge of the interior of Africa.

THE TSETSE.

It is a little larger than the common house fly, but not so large as the honey-bee, of a drab color, and some yellow bars across the after part of the body. We lived about nine weeks in a part in which it abounded. Both children and selves were bitten repeatedly, and we can testify that the poison which produces such fatal effects on all domestic animals is quite harmless to man. I have allowed one to bite my hand, and observed that he thrust a sharp proboscis into the skin farther than necessary to draw blood ; he withdraws it, and seems to leave a little reservoir, for presently his mandible begins to act as if sucking ; the belly, as yet quite flaccid, begins to distend, and in a few seconds, though undisturbed, he flies off quite full of blood. If the bite takes place on the back of the hand, nothing more is felt ; but where the skin is thick, as in the palm of the hand, a red spot about a quarter of an inch in diameter, remains for several days, leaving an itching or tingling sensation. It is difficult to believe that the same bite can produce such terrible effects in the domestic animals ; but it is a fact that no domestic animals, except perhaps goats, can live where the fly exists. We know several instances in which the whole of a traveler's cattle, horses and dogs, have been swept off by it.

Captain V., doubting whether it could be the Tsetse which killed the animals, took a horse to a place in which the Tsetse exists ; about fifty settled on the animal and he immediately began to lose flesh, and in eleven days he died. We have in this trip lost about thirty oxen by the bite of the Tsetse, and we always traveled by night in going through an infested district. After the oxen are bitten, the countenance immediately stares, the eyes run, the animal is weak, swells under the jaw,

and emaciation commences, which continues, sometimes for months, till the beast lies down and dies. The cellular membrane under the skin is distended with air, or rather the skin, when taken off, leaves in view a great number of bubbles like soap-bubbles, on the surface of the body. The fat is all of a greenish yellow color, and oily, glary consistence; muscles flabby, heart soft and pale, lungs and liver diseased, the gall bladder unusually distended with bile. The blood is remarkable as containing very little of the coloring matter of the blood; it does not stain the hand, and there is not a pailful in the body. There are some symptoms of the brain being affected, by staggering and blindness.

The wonderful thing in the whole affair is this; cattle, horses, dogs, and sheep, are destroyed by the Tsetse, but elephants, buffaloes, zebras, pallahs (an antelope having a thinner skin than the sheep), wild hogs, jackalls, water bucks, gnus, &c., all abound in the very spots in which the Tsetse abounds. What is there in domestication to render cattle obnoxious to this poison? The natures of the buffalo and ox, zebra and horse, do not seem to differ much. The natives assert that calves possess immunity from the poison. A whole herd of cattle is sometimes cut off, with the exception of the calves, by being unwittingly taken into a Tsetse district, and if these are kept there, the whole perish in a year or so.

There is no accustoming them to it. Whole tribes are unable to keep a single domestic animal. Then, again, a dog reared on milk, perishes in a Tsetse district; while one reared on the meat of game lives. Why should not the calf die too? I have read somewhere, that the meat of game possesses a peculiar acid, which is found in very small quantities in domestic animals. Is this the antiseptic, or what is? The Tsetse seems confined to certain districts, and does not change its quarters often. A river is the usual boundary it does not cross.

Believing we could pass through the Tsetse by night, we chose the latter path. On reaching the Chobe, early on the morning of the third day from Chombos, we found the bank

on which we had unyoked the very head quarters of the Tsetse. This river has not a single ford. Having passed the oxen over to an island, we went down the Chobe in order to meet Sebitoane. We were pulled along in a light canoe by five rare good rowers. The river is everywhere deep, and were it not so very winding in its course, a steamboat could ply on it. We found Sebitoane a thin, tall, wiry man, but cool and self-possessed. "Your cattle are bitten by the Tsetse," said he, "but never mind, I shall replace them." He then presented about two gallons of honey, a pot of porridge, and an ox.

SEBITOANE AND HIS MEN.

His people are by far the most savage we have seen. They devour an ox in less than an hour; each, seizing a piece, throws it into a fire made of grass or reeds; and when only half roasted, it is instantly devoured. Porridge was brought to Sebitoane in the evening, and he invited us to partake; but as about a dozen hands were thrust in, as well as ours, we only got about three spoonfuls. Very early in the morning he came to our fire, and related many incidents of his past life. He was one of the army of Mantatees, which is mentioned by Mr. Moffat; and, after being defeated there, he had been fighting almost constantly ever since; lost all he had three times, but ended by possessing more cattle, and subjecting more people to his sway than any chief we know in Africa. Thinking he could cross our wagons by means of canoes, we returned together to what was to be our stand for two months, on the Chobe. They were much too heavy for his light canoes. In a few days Sebitoane was seized with pneumonia, and after lingering a fortnight, to our great sorrow expired. His people entreated us not to leave them, and it being no part of my plan to do so, we gladly consented. We had proposed a visit to Sesheke, a large river of which we had heard, but the people did not consent to our going until an order came from his daughter to take us wherever we wished to go, and treat us exactly as if Sebitoane were alive.

THE RIVER SESHEKE.

Mr. Oswell and I proceeded to the Sesheke on horseback, and found it about one hundred miles distant. It is the only *river* I ever saw, though nothing, perhaps, to those you are accustomed to look upon. Mr. Oswell never saw any thing like it in India. The water, at the end of a remarkably dry season, was from 300 to 500 yards broad, and then when the waves rose about two feet, making the canoe pitch and roll, the long-lost scenes of the Friths of Clyde and Forth came back so vividly, I might have cried, but concluded to refrain my tears for some other occasion. Ten days up this magnificent river stand the towns of Mamoclusane and the Barotse. The latter people were formerly the greatest tribe in that quarter. Their chief, expelled by Sebitoane, built a large canoe of planks, and roofed it in with cloth; it requires twenty men to propel it. He fortified an island in the river as a place of defense, and formerly sent people up the river to Lobale, to trade in European goods. A great many rivers fall into it, and numerous islands exist all along its course. These islands are usually the abode of tribes, for besides the security they afford from enemies, they are free from Tsetse.

There is a series of rapids in the river above the town of Sesheke, at which canoes require to be taken out and dragged along the bank, and about eighty miles below the same point there is a waterfall called Mosioatunya (resounding smoke), the spray of which can be seen ten or fifteen miles off. Immediately beyond Mosioatunya, the river is narrowed by rocks; but it soon spreads out again, and at the distance of about a month from Sesheke it is joined by the Bashukulompo river, called Manninche, and then assumes the name Zambesi.

The rivers Majelee, &c., &c., are said to join the Bashukulompo and Sesheke rivers, and are all navigable by canoes. Some of them are as large as the Chobe. All are peopled by a black, strongly-built race, quite distinct from the Bechuanas. The intervening country is perfectly flat—we did not see a single hill in our course, and at the period of the annual rise of the rivers, the country for miles adjacent is covered with

water. The banks of the Sesheke were sixteen feet high, yet we observed unmistakable evidences that the river overflowed the country for about fifteen miles out. Even on the Chobe, we saw numerous earthen dikes for catching fish more than a mile from its bed, and to reach them it must rise eight or ten feet perpendicularly. The towns and gardens are situated on patches of hard ground, raised a few feet above the surrounding swampy, boggy level. The rivers are generally flanked by large, reedy swamps, and where there are trees, ten to one but you have Tsetse. We have reached the limits of wagon traveling, at least of such hulks as we have in this country.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INHABITANTS.

After having dragged you through marshes, reeds, and rivers, I come back to the topic on which I feel most interest. The poor, degraded fragments of humanity! who will pity them if the Christian does not? They are quite black, their muscular system is largely developed, deep chested; their upper extremities are so powerful they make their light canoes cut through the water as our Regatta people do at home. They are not warlike, but trust to the defense their deep, reedy rivers afford. They are much more ingenious as smiths, basket makers, potters, and canoe makers, than any of the southern tribes. The Baloi smelt large quantities of iron ore, and make very neat spears, needles, &c. I have the vanity to believe myself, for an untaught "Jack of all trades," a pretty fair smith, but I could not hold a candle to them in making spears, sheep and ox bells, &c. The Bashukulompo are called so from having their hair raised up in the center of the head; and both they and the Batoka have the strange custom of knocking out all the upper front teeth of both sexes at the age of puberty. The under teeth being released from the pressure and attrition of the upper, grow long and press out the lower lips, and give an old man sort of appearance to the face. They say it is done in order to make their teeth resemble those of oxen. All Africans, except Bushmen, have a very great reverence for cattle; it nearly amounts to worship.

The Babimpe go a step farther, and knock out both upper and lower front teeth. We did not see any of the latter, but the Batoka told us that the custom began among the Babimpe, by the wife of a chief: having bitten his hand in a quarrel, he ordered her teeth to be knocked out as a punishment, and his people followed his example.

COMMERCE OF THE ZONGA.

The Banjoia, Bapinjola, and other tribes living between the large rivers, use feathered arrows having iron heads; their bows are about five feet long, and with these they manage to kill elephants, buffaloes, &c. The Tsetse abounding in their country, they are unable to keep any domestic animals. The Bashukulompo and Batoka have a small breed of cattle, which live with them in their houses as Irish pigs do. They are never driven: the herdsman goes before them, and when he wants them to move, he commences calling them and making a few antics; and, being exceedingly sportive animals, they come after him gamboling. All the tribes have domestic and guinea fowls, and they cultivate large quantities of native corn, beans, sugar-cane, and yams. Honey abounds through the whole country, indeed native food seems abundant; elephants exist in considerable numbers, but the ivory is chiefly used for the manufacture of armlets; and the saw they have is so thick, that half an inch is lost for every ring that is formed.

The Portuguese have never, so far as I could learn, come up the Sesheke; and, if one may judge from some maps I have seen, they know very little about it. They pass along the Bashukulompo river bartering for slaves; but that is only from 80 to 100 yards broad, while the Sesheke is from 300 to 500 yards wide; and, in stating this, I believe I am under rather than over the mark. The present year being remarkable for the very little rain which has fallen, we found the Sesheke at its very lowest, and conclude no one will come after us and find it contain less water than I have stated. But will any thing be done in order to bring this portion of the human family into closer contact with Christians? If Christian

merchants would come up the Zambesi, and establish a trade with the tribes I have indicated on the map, they would drive the slave trader out of the market, and they would be no losers in the end. Just think of what the discovery of this one river (Zonga) did for the commerce of the colony last year in one article. We know of nine hundred elephants which have been killed on its banks in the short space of three years, and last year a trader at the Kurunan took down to the colony twenty-three thousand pounds of ivory. The article can be sold, at Graham's Town even, at 4s. 6d. sterling per lb., and nearly the whole amount came from this river. If *one* river helps to swell the commerce of our colony, what might not the numerous rivers put down on the map do for adventurous merchants?

THE HEALTHY SEASON.

Traders may come up the Zambesi with perfect safety during the months of June, July, and August. These are the winter months in those parts, and fever does not prevail; but no one ought to attempt to enter the Zambesi during any other month. If spared, I hope to find out if any other month may be considered safe for Europeans, but my present experience leads me to point out June, July, and August. When the tribes of this country have food enough, they become very eager traders in ivory, feathers, cattle, &c. At present, the only use made of ostrich feathers, is to adorn their heads in their dances; and wax, of which there is a large supply, is thrown away as refuse. They very soon acquire the habit of preserving articles for traders, and long for their visits.

Only give them an opportunity, and those who have food enough will soon civilize themselves. It is otherwise with the poor starvelings we have to deal with in the southern part of the Bechuana country. They have no overplus to spend in dress. But we find the Mambari came to Sebitoane all dressed in European clothing. As I have never seen a party from a missionary settlement turn out so well clad, I begin to suspect that civilization is less our business than we have believed it to be. Evangelization ought to be the main thing.

THE SLAVE-TRADE OPENING.

These Mambari were a party of a tribe so called, who came to Sebitoane last year in order to purchase slaves. They had large quantities of English manufactured cloth, viz. : blue, striped, and printed cottons, green, blue, and red baize; and for about nine yards of these they demanded a boy. The slave-trade began in that region only in 1850. Sebitoane's people felt the barter to be repugnant to their feelings, and tried to prevail upon the Mambari to exchange their goods for cattle or ivory, but these were declined. They remained a considerable time with Sebitoane, and incited him to send an expedition against the Bashukulompo, stipulating that for the use of their guns, they should receive all the captives, while Sebitoane should take all the cattle. They departed with about two hundred boys.

While on this foray, the Basuto, as Sebitoanes's people are called, saw a party of Portuguese slave-traders, and they gave them about thirty captives for three common English muskets. They got no Basuto children. All those sold were the children of captives. Legitimate commerce might drive the slave-merchants out of the market in a year or two, in this region, and the territory to which I refer is not small. The Basuto know the river of Sesheke or Barotse, at least three hundred miles above the town of Sesheke, and the general direction it takes may be gathered from their expression, "When we look up to the Barotse river, the sun rises on one cheek and sets on the other;" and it is a large river as far as they know it. They speak of *Lobale* as the source of all the water; but whether this is a very large river, or what it is, I could never make out. Many tribes live on it, however.

You will see what a field is opened up for evangelical effort. The country is densely populated, and the people having generally enough of food, may attend, if they will, to instruction.

THEIR THEOLOGY.

The Supreme Being is called Nyampi, or Beza. In referring to a person having died, they say, "he was lifted by Nyampi," or "by the Lord." They make use of certain kinds of divination and prayers, too. I have visited a great many tribes which never have enjoyed any intercourse with missionaries, either directly or indirectly, and never met a single individual unaware of the existence of the Creator and Governor of all things. All understood the nature of sin, and the expressions made use of by all, imply the belief in the existence of a future state of being. If any ever existed who had no knowledge of the existence of God, sin, and futurity, it is remarkable that no instance should now remain. Intelligent old men, with whom I have conversed, ridicule the idea of their having been destitute of the knowledge of God, and quote their proverbs and fables, handed down from time immemorial, in proof. One of these is essentially the story of Solomon and the harlots. They are, however, degraded low enough, and no nation needs more the humanizing influence of the Gospel than the African.

OPENING FOR THE GOSPEL.

Can Europeans live in this new region? Had we found a hilly part I should have tried the experiment. I had my family with me. The people were delighted with the children. The presence of the "wee things" seemed to disarm all suspicion. Sebitoane's queens were always scolding me for not letting them feed the children. They stuffed them so full of honey and milk when they could catch them, I was afraid they would make them sick. And poor Sebitoane, the very day before he died, raised himself up as I was leaving, and said, "take Robert to Maunko," his chief wife, "and get some milk for him." They were delighted with the idea of my coming to live with them; but though I should willingly expose myself, I do not feel it right, in the absence of hills, to expose the lives of the children on the swamps.

MISSIONARY PROPOSAL.

If the directors (of the London Missionary Society) agree to my proposal, to send my family home for two years for the purpose of education, I shall then wend my solitary way into the region of the Zambesi, and spend two years, if I live, hard at work. I shall feel the parting with my family. They may be orphanized, but there is a Father to the fatherless, and I believe He will accept my work and my sacrifice. Pray for us.

LANGUAGE.

There are a great many dialects of the Zambesi language. I collected for comparison three hundred words of Bakober, as many of each of five other dialects, and find about the same relationship existing between them as between Lowland Scotch and Yorkshire dialects. If I form a language out of these, it will be with a view to the translation of the Bible into it—the work of a lifetime; and only a quarter of a lifetime, at most, remains now for me. If God will accept my service, I shall live to perform it. If not, some one will do it better.

Ever affectionately yours,

DAVID LIVINGSTON.

After the reading of this letter, thanks were voted for the interesting communication, and a short conversation ensued on the constant advances which are made in every quarter towards a thorough exploration of Africa. The French missionaries on the west coast of South Africa are spreading useful knowledge among the Bechuanas. Mr. Francis Galton, an English traveler, explored about 500 miles to the north of Namaqua Land, to Naugoro, lat. 18° S. and lon. 17° E. The missionaries of the American Board are penetrating inwards from the Gaboon river, near the equator; those of the Presbyterian Board have ascended the river Nuni from Corisco Island to the Pangwe country; those of the American Missionary Association, have made discoveries some hundreds of miles from Mendi, on the west coast; those of the English

Church Missionary Society, are traversing from Sierra Leone to the tribes of the interior. The French are untiring in their exertions to reach Timbuctoo from Algiers, and to establish an interior intercourse between the latter province and Senegal. The journey of the lamented Richardson from Tunis across the desert towards Central Africa, was referred to; also, the numerous projects for reaching the sources of the White Nile, not forgetting the very recent tour of Dr. Krapf, the German missionary on the east coast of Africa, near Zanzibar, who has reached, through almost incredible perils, what he believed to be the upper waters of the Nile, in lat. 10° S. and whose observations on the inland mountain ranges have lately been welcomed with great interest by the Geographical Society of Paris.

THIRD SITTING.

THE meeting for May was held, by adjournment, on the 22d, in the chapel of the University. The President in the chair.

The first business was to accept the certificate of incorporation of the Society, under the general law of the State of New York, and to revise and alter the by-laws so as to conform to the statute, all which was unanimously agreed to. The incorporated Society then reelected the Board of Officers and Trustees, to hold office until the next annual meeting, and until others are chosen in their stead.

Mr. Bloodgood read a note from E. A. Hopkins, Esq., U. S. Consul for Paraguay, presenting to the Society the map of Paraguay, drawn by himself, and the map of Uruguay ; for which the thanks of the Society were voted.

THE BLACK SEA.

Mr. Bloodgood, after reading a paper on the subject of the geography of the Black Sea, its character, history, and commerce, presented the following table, from J. Danesi, Esq., U. S. Consul at Constantinople, for which the thanks of the Society were voted.

A SKETCH OF THE TRADE OF THE EASTERN PORTS OF TURKEY, IN
THE BLACK SEA.

The several Ports and loading places of the Eastern coast of Turkey, in the Black Sea, as well as those situated on the left shore of the Danube, were closed to the Trade till the year 1840, at which period the total abolition of monopolies attracted speculators to these quarters. The agricultors of Turkey had, however, been so vexed by the previous vicious system that they mistook the true views of the state, and were unwilling to cultivate their lands for the two years which followed

the abolition. It was but in 1842 when agricultural produce began to be brought to the markets of Bourgas, Ayol, Misseoria, Varna, Balchik, Cavarna, Mongolia, Knstenge, and Caraharman, and to the several cities of the left shore of the Danube; and nearly a thousand vessels were loaded at the above-named places during that year. The produce has successively increased since, and should the harvest be good, upwards of 2,500 to 3,000 vessels are yearly loaded for the north of Europe. This produce represents a quantity averaging three millions of English quarters (24 millions of bushels), of grain, and of the approximate value of sixteen millions of dollars.

The principal produce of the country is grain, in the following proportions: soft wheat, 40 per cent.; hard wheat, 15 per cent.; Indian corn, 20 per cent.; rye, 10 per cent.; barley, 10 per cent.; oats, 5 per cent. Wheat is actually shipped at \$6 50 per English quarter; Indian corn, \$4 75, and \$5; rye, \$4; barley and oats at \$2 75, free on board at Varna. These prices vary according to a good or bad crop. We have known them 20 per cent. lower, and in some instances, 30 per cent. higher.

Besides the above, many other articles of produce are brought down for exportation, viz:

Wool.—The country produces two qualities, the Sigai and the Roumeli, generally known under the denomination of "Wool of Constantinople." 400,000 okes (about 1,120,000 American pounds) of this article is yearly exported, and prices vary from 4 to 5 piasters per oke, say from 7 to 9 cents per English lb., free on board.

Tallow.—The annual produce does not exceed 500,000 okes (1,400,600 lbs.), the greatest part whereof is consumed at Constantinople; its average price is 4½ piasters an oke, taken at the market, corresponding to \$180 per ton on board.

Yellow Berries.—About 100,000 okes of this article come to the market, and is offered at 4 to 5 piasters per oke, equal to 7 to 9 cents per lb.

Linseed.—the production of this seed is very limited.

40,000 bushels are usually exported, and the average price is \$1 per bushel, on board.

Sussam Seed.—100,000 bushels may be purchased at \$1 50 per bushel, free on board.

Canary Seed.—20,000 bushels may be procured; and prices vary from 20 to 25 piasters per bushel, equal to 95 cts. \$1 20 per bushel, free on board.

Seed Oil.—The produce of this article, although abundant, is not much exported, the natives using it for their daily consumption. The average price is $4\frac{1}{2}$ piasters per oke, equal to 8 cents per lb., free on board.

Honey.—Above one million of okes is exported when the crop is good; and its average price is 3 piasters per oke, say 6 cents per lb., free on board, casks included.

Yellow Wax.—The wax extracted from the honey is about one-sixteenth of the crop of the latter; it is sold at 20 piasters per oke, equal to 36 cents per lb. on board.

Hogs.—The Bulgarians rear a great number of these animals, which are purchased, when fat, at \$6 per head.

Hog's Lard—May be found in large quantities at the price of 5 piasters per oke—9 cents per lb.—on board.

Pork—may be had at 4 piasters per oke—7 cents per lb.—on board.

Oxen and Cows—May be had in large numbers at \$20 *a* 26 the former, per head, and the latter at \$12 *a* 14.

Salt Meat—Is not usually made, as the natives do not use it; but any quantity may be made, and, if a large supply is demanded, will not cost above 6 to 7 cents per lb., put on board at Varna or Silistria.

Wet Salted Hides.—The number of cattle annually killed is above 200,000, such as Buffaloes, Oxen, and Cows, and about 3,000,000 of sheep, goats, and lambs. The skins are mostly consumed by the natives of the country, and the remainder exported. The hides sell at 4 piasters per oke, say 7 cents per lb., free on board. The goat and sheep skins sell at 5 piasters a piece, equal to 25 cents, on board; the lambs $2\frac{1}{2}$ piasters— $12\frac{1}{2}$ cts.—each.

Otto of Roses.—This article is the produce of Kesanlik 100 miles distant from Bourgas. Should the crop be good, upwards of 300,000 meticals are produced. The actual price is 17 piastres per metical, equal to \$5 per ounce free on board.

Leeches.—The exportation of this article began in 1840. The ponds are nearly exhausted; and the actual exportation does not exceed 2,500 or 3,000 okes (about 2,000,000 of leeches), which are sold at 300 piasters per oke, assorted.

Timber.—This article, owing to the immense forests which occupy this part of Turkey, is very abundant, especially in the quality of oak. The exportation is not very great, actually, and but few cargoes are sent down. Should the article be wanted, however, thousands of cargoes might be exported yearly. The oak is equal to live-oak; and we find, besides, walnut trees and several kinds of soft woods. The article may be shipped at 10 dollars per load, of 50 cubic feet, free on board, at the neighborhood of Varna.

Valonia.—Acorn of the *Quercus ægilops astringens*, used in tanning. 160,000 cwts. annually imported into Great Britain. Very little of this article is to be found, and the price will be about \$50 per ton, free on board.

Bones.—This article, very abundant in 1840, begins to become rare, owing to the immense exportation required for England. 2,000 to 3,000 tons could now be exported annually, and the price free on board is quoted \$10 per ton.

There are other articles, the produce of Turkey, which do not figure in the present report. They are of no commercial consequence.

The respective flags loading all this produce, are in the following proportion, as extracted from the annual report of vessels which passed last year through the Bosphorus, viz:

Anseatic Towns,	.	.	.	9;	Adm'g. tons,	.	1,908.
Austrian,	.	.	.	737;	"	.	222,673.
Belgian,	.	.	.	2;	"	.	448.
British and Ionian,	.	.	.	1,296;	"	.	315,541.
Danish,	.	.	.	2;	"	.	370.
French,	.	.	.	256;	"	.	63,989.
Greek,	.	.	.	4,607;	"	.	713,440.

Dutch,	7;	"	1,311.
Mecklenburg,	48;	"	11,700.
Napolitan,	39;	"	10,645.
Portugeese,	1;	"	80.
Prussian,	10;	"	1,480.
Russian,	737;	"	unknown.
Swedish and Norwegian,	18;	"	4,741.
Sardinian,	546;	"	117,417.
Tuscan,	30;	"	7,477.
Vallachian,	351;	"	31,529.

The greatest number of these vessels go to the north ; and since the free-navigation bill passed in England, the number of foreign flags has much increased. Should American vessels come up, there would be good return cargoes for them, and far more profitable than the employments they find elsewhere. As, for example,—the American bark *Lucinda Sears*, of 250 tons, was lately chartered at Boston for this port, for an outwards and homewards cargo, at \$3,800. On her arrival here she was offered \$5,000 for the return only, had she the option of breaking her charter-party, to load in a port of the Black Sea for England.

The direct importation of European and American produce at the above places is not important at present, owing to the want of a regular depot, which is the reason that the natives procure their goods at Constantinople.

The annual consumption of foreign produce is upwards of three millions of dollars ; one-third of which sum is calculated as being laid out in American produce, such as coffee, sugar, rum, cotton manufactures, drugs, &c. This consumption would be far greater should the articles be sent direct from America to Varna, as they would be retailed at cheaper rates than at present when they have to pass through several agencies before they can reach the place of consumption. This inconveniency is equally felt for the commerce of Constantinople, where American produce is mostly sent from the markets of London, Liverpool, Marseilles, Genoa, Trieste, and other European ports, and is overcharged with expense. Should trade be direct between the commercial places of the new con-

tinent and that port, the importation of American produce into Turkey would increase, and American shipping would find as good freights here as the 1,000 to 1,200 English vessels which annually pass the straits of the Bosphorus, and would be taken up with the same favor as the English.

F. DANESI,

U. S. Vice-Consul. *Now Consul.*

NEW YORK, May 21, 1852.

MEMORIAL TO THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

MR. DE WITT BLOODGOOD, to whom was entrusted the preparation of a memorial to the Secretary of the navy, on the subject of a survey of the Rio de la Plata and its tributaries, presented the following; which, being read, was adopted and ordered to be forwarded to the Secretary:

The American Geographical and Statistical Society of New York, having recently had its attention called to the great commercial importance of the countries bordering on the Rio de la Plata and its tributaries, by the written and verbal reports of E. A. Hopkins, Esq., for many years a resident in Paraguay, and now on his return to that country, as U. S. Consul,—has endeavored, under a deep conviction of the importance of the subject, to awaken a spirit of inquiry among our countrymen, and to turn the attention of our commercial classes to the vast regions now opened to their enterprise.

To that gentleman the Society is indebted for valuable information, not to be found in the latest geographies, and for the correct delineations of several rivers and lakes, not yet adopted even in the best maps of South America. The Society, having given as much publicity as possible, through the press of New York, to information so valuable and opportune, deems it to be within the proper sphere of its duty to invoke the aid of at least one department of the Government to a subject daily growing more and more important.

The late political events at Buenos-Aires, and the downfall of a policy which, to say the least of it, has been destructive of the free navigation of the Plata river for very many years, preceded as it was, also, by a similar isolating policy of the celebrated Dictator of Paraguay,—have at length opened to the commercial states of Europe and North America, a field of commercial adventure of boundless extent and endless fertility. Already the leading statesmen of England and France have exchanged notes on the propriety of securing the trade of these newly emancipated countries, by proposing the guarantees of a full diplomatic recognition. Our own, as we fear, has as yet done nothing, even for the very governments who prefer our friendship to that of all other nations.

The extent of the territory watered by the Plata and its tributaries, the variety, and value of its natural products, the anxiety which its political rulers, and the people themselves, have manifested to seek and establish friendly relations with the United States, have deeply impressed the Society ; and it desires as its first and most signal effort, to obtain the assistance of your Department in the development and successful accomplishment of its design, to make those countries which have had no commerce by sea for a long series of years, friends of our flag, and customers for our products.

It is the earnest wish of the Society, to procure through your official power and influence, an immediate survey of the river Plata, its affluents and confluents, and of the shores that are washed and made prolific, by these great rivers. It is to obtain such information, by actual and scientific observation, as will enable our navigators and merchants to enter those rivers for the purposes of trade, for the advancement of civilization, and the promotion of the best interests of humanity.

It must be well known to your department that a large part of Brazil and Bolivia, all Paraguay, the upper provinces of the Argentine Republic, and a portion of Uruguay, have for many years been cut off from any direct and active commercial intercourse with the rest of the world ; and that the productions of their soils, rich, varied, and inexhaustible, have

been of little benefit to themselves, or to those countries which most desired to obtain them. It is needless, therefore, for the Society to enter into details upon this branch of the subject, further than to refer your department to the tabular statements hereunto annexed, by which it will be perceived, that at least one quarter of the whole of South America is now, for the first time, within the reach of our enterprise, offering positive and far more profitable results than we have gained or can gain from many older countries where, at a large expense, we have kept up formal diplomatic arrangements, and where our squadrons ride at anchor in courteous idleness,—older countries, who warily guard their ports by restrictive or reciprocal customs against our too successful trade, or in the end heap up balances against us which scarcely the gold of California can liquidate.

The marts now opened to us in South America, by the change in the government of Buenos-Aires, are as yet almost without limit. The commerce of our country has but to enter them, to be enriched.

The inhabitants of the countries upon the upper waters of La Plata, have for a long time scarcely enjoyed the comforts of civilized life.

They have a fine climate, they have abundant means, they are, in fact, wealthy, but of our beautiful and useful fabrics, the comfortable furniture, the latest and most useful agricultural and mechanical implements, the clothing, the works of art, the axe, the saw, the steam engine, they know but little. In order to introduce them into those countries, and to bring back their rare and valuable woods, their drugs, their hemp, their tobacco, and their precious minerals, the way must first be explored and pointed out. Large vessels are quite unknown in the upper waters. The small trade which Paraguay carries on shore-wise with itself, or occasionally with Buenos-Aires and Montevideo, is by means of small water-craft that float downwards with the current, or slowly re-ascend it by the aid of their rude sails. And so sensible are the governments of Bolivia and Paraguay of the necessity of a change

in the navigation of those rivers, they have offered large bounties in money and lands, to whoever will first ascend those rivers by steam. On good authority the Society is assured, that any expedition undertaken for this purpose will receive their most cordial welcome.

Your Department, then, is solicited to take the first step in bringing about a commercial intercourse between those countries and the United States, through these internal and fluvial avenues. It respectfully asks that you will immediately select one of the small government steamers carrying about five feet water, to proceed to the upper tributaries of La Plata, certainly as far as Assumption, to make a geographical reconnoissance, and a hydrographical survey. This steamer, being made a part of the Brazilian squadron, will not require any particular appropriation from Congress, and the Society will be most happy to procure the services of two or three scientific persons, to assist in the objects of the inquiry, if the department will recognize them as attached to the expedition. It would also engage to furnish them a full set of instructions, geographical and statistical, as a guide to those intrusted with its particular portion of the investigations. Thus, in an ample and economical manner, one of the most important, and attractive subjects of the day would be illustrated and explained through the Department, greatly to its own honor and the advantage of our maritime interests.

Nor does the Society deem this appeal to your Department an improper one.

Great as has been the glory acquired by our navy, noble as have been its triumphs, dear to us as is its renown, we believe that its mission is not the less a noble one when it bears around the world the flag of a peaceful, united, and happy nation, when it rescues our shipwrecked mariners from the horrors of some desolate or barbarous coast, when it gives to the American citizen, in far distant countries the "assurance doubly sure," that even there, his property and his life will find protection, when it convoys safely through the squadrons of adverse and contending parties our own richly

laden merchant fleets, and when it curiously explores the newly discovered rivers, the icebound inlets, and dangerous coasts, where American enterprise may gather wealth in security.

These are some of the services, already happily rendered, which have made our navy so popular, and that induce such liberal appropriations for its support in time of peace, and almost without a murmur.

Our army when not engaged in war sinks into comparative inutility, but the navy is ever on the wing, the messenger of peace, of commerce, and of civilization, our proudest representative, armed, except in the last resort, only with good will and chivalric courtesy.

Most of the great commercial and scientific explorations of the last hundred years have been conducted by naval officers, under the patronage of their respective governments. England, France, Holland, Russia, and the United States, have names on their naval lists which have gathered their brightest laurels from the peaceful fields of laborious research.

Our own government has distinguished itself by its admirable coast surveys, its Antarctic and Arctic expeditions, and is now directing its attention to the seas and shores of Japan. In this latter expedition, it may necessarily be, that force is to be an element of success ; but in the proposition we make to the Department, to explore the River Plata, no such element will be necessary. The small steamer which it will send there, where one was never before seen, will be welcomed by a enthusiastic population, and received with gratitude. Everywhere her commander will be hailed with joy, and the blessings of millions of Christian people will be showered upon our country, when her mission is proclaimed.

Everywhere her officers, savants, and crew, will be received with open arms, and the records of her exploring parties will brighten the pages of our commercial history.

Our naval department has before this shewn a similar intelligent spirit. The National Observatory at Washington, under its fostering care, has already become famous throughout the world. Its chief has already essentially benefited navigation

and commerce, by his profound theories and observations on the currents of the ocean, as well as by those accurate nautical tables, from which the mariner learns to trace his daily course upon the deep.

In conclusion, the Society most respectfully asks the aid of your Department in carrying out the objects expressed in this memorial, the scientific exploration of the river Plata and its tributaries, a proceeding clearly within its acknowledged province, conducive to the prosperity of an immense territory that seeks our friendship and our trade, to the interests of American commerce and manufactures, and those of the human race.

Should the Society be so fortunate as to have presented in this brief memorial, sufficient reasons to induce the Department to approve and forward the project which it advocates, it respectfully suggests that no time is to be lost in carrying it through. The Americans are at this moment in high favor with Brazil, and the states bordering upon these rivers. Our products will be the first they receive, under the new order of things. Such is their habit, that whatever articles are now sent them from our looms and factories, will probably be preferred to all others. Circumstances greatly favor our obtaining the largest share of their trade, and we cannot doubt that the enlightened views by which the administration of the Department has been directed hitherto, will continue to be the source of increased prosperity to all those interests it was established to protect and advance.

Estimate of the population of the territories more or less dependent upon the Plata river and its tributaries.

	Square Leagues.				Inhabitants.			
Brazil, - - - -	250,000	-	-	-	7,000,000			
Paraguay, - - - -	18,000	-	-	-	1,200,000			
Bolivia, - - - -	60,000	-	-	-	1,500,000			
Uruguay, - - - -	10,000	-	-	-	100,000			
Upper Provinces of the Argentine								
Republic, - - - -	50,000	-	-	-	200,000			

The recent appointment of English and French diplomatic agents, now on their way to this new theater of commercial

enterprise, afford the most positive evidence of the propriety of the measures suggested by your Memorialists.

All which is respectfully submitted.

The Hon. WM. A. GRAHAM,

Secretary of the Navy, Washington,

GENERAL MOSQUERA.

Mr. Theodore Dwight was introduced and stated some facts relative to General Mosquera, late President of New Granada.

General Tomas Cipriano de Mosquera, a native of Popayan, in the Republic of New Granada, and now head of a commercial house, in Panama, and one in New York, was a general under Bolivar, and has filled many important civil offices, particularly that of the President of New Granada, but has devoted attention to scientific observations.

For the purpose of showing something of the present condition of New Granada, and the favorable circumstances under which much valuable knowledge has been collected by that gentleman, by whom they have been furnished, a few extracts will be given from his Message to the Congress of that Republic, delivered by him at the close of his Presidential term, in 1849:

“In obedience to the laws, public instruction has been fostered and made free; three new female colleges have been established, the provincial colleges remodeled, many new primary schools founded, 5,000 select volumes added to the public library of the Central University, the physical sciences are taught, and supplies of apparatus sought for, a military college founded, a nautical school; and the example of the United States is quoted for encouragement in sustaining education in all its branches.

“The law establishing religious toleration,” says the Message, “which has been ratified by an article of the treaty of peace and friendship with the United States, is respected by the nation. Its results will be perceived hereafter; and Congress, in accordance with those principles, ought to sanction

other acts consequent upon it, as the derogation of the law of ecclesiastical patronage, the limitation of the salaries to priests to small sums, recognizing monastic and religious institutions as merely moral associations, depriving them of all privileges, and leaving priests without any civil or political power. Their uniting spiritual functions with temporal duties is inconsistent in a democratic republic like ours." * * "Morality and religion demand this; and we are not living in that period of darkness, when the altar and the throne made an alliance for each other's support. It is gone and will never return."

"The first steps taken by the administration for internal improvements, were to recommend laws for the construction of roads and the formation of a corps of engineers." Several European engineers were imported, and explorations were made of the routes from Bogota to the Magdalena, of Buena-ventura on the Pacific, of Pasto to the Patia, of Tuquerres to the Telemtic in Barbaccas, of the Gulf of Uraba on the Atlantic, and of the Isthmus of Panama. Orders were given to continue the works of the Quindin, and to construct various others on the national roads. The Panama Company, formed in Paris on May 10th, 1847, failed to perform their contract to commence a road across the Isthmus; and were declared to have forfeited their privilege.

A good geographer was employed, in 1847, to make a map of the country; but the work has not been performed, as no appropriation was made by Congress; but it may soon be commenced by the pupils of the military college, under the direction of the professors.

A treaty of peace and amity was ratified with the United States, and ratifications exchanged by General Hevoan, Minister at Washington, and published as a law, August 16th, 1847.

Resolved that the Board of Trustees be requested to invite President Mosquera to read a paper relative to the geography, productions, and trade of his native land.

FOURTH SITTING.

THE monthly meeting for June was held on the evening of the 8th, in the Society's new room, which was quite filled by the attendance. The President in the chair.

After the necessary details of business of the Society, the Librarian read a letter from Governor Fish, accompanying a copy of the Maryland Census, presented by Mr. Kennedy, Chief of the Census Bureau, with the abstract of the seventh Census. Also a letter from Mr. Montgomery Smith, presenting in the name of the author, a Synoptical View of the Republic of Mexico in 1850, formed from the latest official data, and other most reliable sources of information. By Miguel M. Lerdo de Tejada. Mexico, 1850.

Mr. Congdon presented a copy of the "Manual of Scientific Enquiry," published by the Lords of the Admiralty, and edited by Sir John F. W. Herschell, Bart.

Thanks were voted for these several donations.

GENERAL MOSQUERA AND NEW GRANADA.

The principal attraction of the evening was the visit of General Mosquera, formerly President of the Republic of New Granada, who had kindly responded to a special invitation to visit the Society, and present to it some of the fruits of his observations on the geography and statistics of his country. General Mosquera was introduced to the President of the Society by his friend, Mr. Theodore Dwight, and by the President presented to the Society in a handsome manner, appropriate to the distinguished character of the Society's visitor.

After the usual salutations, the President said that the Society would now be happy to hear the paper he had been so kind as to prepare. General Mosquera replied, thanking him for his courtesy, and saying that he was not sufficiently familiar with the English language either to write it or to speak it in public, and he had therefore requested his friend

Mr. Dwight, who translated the Memoir he had prepared, to read it to the Society.

Mr. Dwight said, that General Mosquera had requested him to make an apology to the Society for the defects which they might observe in the paper he was about to present. The author had all his life suffered from the want of an education ; having left school at the age of fourteen, to join the army of Columbia, soon after the commencement of the war of Independence, at a moment when his father was a prisoner of the Spaniards, and threatened with death ; and having spent all the succeeding years in the duties of active military and civil offices. His means of information, as well as his opportunities for study, had been very few ; and, although he had carried with him, in his campaigns and journeys, thermometers, barometers, and some other scientific instruments, most necessary in making observations, he had not procured or preserved them without extreme difficulty. He believed the results he had obtained might generally be relied on, as he had made and recorded his observations with the greatest care. The present paper had been prepared in extreme haste, as he had delayed even the commencement of the task until the preceding week, and had been, in that time, much interrupted by the business of his new commercial house in this city, and had also been confined to his bed two days.

Mr. D. added, that the latter remarks might also be pleaded by him in excuse for the defects in the translation, as he had not been able to begin it until the morning of the preceding day, did not receive it entire until the evening, and had also other pressing business.

The first part of an elaborate and admirable descriptive account of the Republic of New Granada was then read, and was listened to with marked interest by the intelligent assembly present. After it was finished, Mr. Dwight stated that the remainder would be ready to be presented at the October meeting of the Society, and the whole will appear in the next Bulletin of the Society's proceedings, accompanied by a new map of the country.

A vote was unanimously passed, of thanks to General Mosquera, for his valuable memoir, and to Mr. Dwight for his kindness in translating it and reading it to the Society.

General Mosquera replied, in the following terms, to the vote of thanks passed by the Society, speaking extemporaneously in the Spanish language, and requesting his friend to translate his words into English.

“MR. PRESIDENT: The cordial and attentive manner in which I have been received in this respectable assembly of men devoted to the propagation of useful knowledge concerning the globe which we inhabit, has been the more grateful to me, because I see in the establishment of the Geographical and Statistical Society of New York, a very advanced step for the diffusion of light in this world, discovered by Columbus, and in which has been founded the noble republic of America, destined to cement the principles of true liberty, and to unite the republican institutions of the American Continent.

“The little work which I have presented, on the geographical position of New Granada, and which my friend, Mr. Dwight, has translated, is not the work of a professor; and I have been stimulated to prepare it by the absolute want of exact geographical data on my country, that it may afford materials to the Society in their labors. They are results of my observations in various journies and campaigns which I performed during my military life, in the Columbian war of Independence, in which I served under the orders of Bolivar. The sympathy which connects me with the American soil, liberated by the immortal Washington, and the kindness with which I have been received in this city, which will, one day, become the first in the civilized world, are so great that I seem to be in my own country, and a citizen of this great nation. It is true that I am a Columbian, and, as such, regard all Americans as my brethren, and united by the same principles.

“My friend, Mr. Dwight, will interpret my thoughts, as I cannot express them in English, although I have well understood what has been said by several of the gentlemen present, and whose kind feelings I appreciate.—I have spoken.”

METHOD OF GEOGRAPHICAL OBSERVATION.

BY W. J. HAMILTON, Esq.,

PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, LONDON.

From the "Manual of Scientific Enquiry," prepared for the use of Officers in Her Majesty's Navy, and Travelers in general, under authority of the Lord's Commissioners of the Admiralty.

As the study of the science of geography has of late years rapidly advanced, it has also risen in public estimation. Nor when we consider the nature of the subject, and our own national position, with our colonies extending to every quarter of the globe, our ships navigating every sea, and our travelers exploring every country, is there any reason to be surprised at such a result. It is no longer considered sufficient to possess correct maps of every state, with their political subdivisions and boundaries carefully laid down; it is no longer enough to have attained a perfect delineation of all the continents and oceans of the globe, with their bays and islets, their rivers and their mountains, and to have correctly fixed the position of all those physical features which constitute the surface of our earth. This is but the commencement of our science. The most perfect maps are but the skeleton or groundwork of geography, taken in the higher and more extended sense in which it should be cultivated. Its application to the progress and development of civilization, and to the knowledge of the animal and vegetable productions of the earth, of the distribution of the different races of the human family, and the various combinations which have arisen from their repeated intercourse, are subjects of the highest consequences, and to the clear understanding of which our maps and charts can only serve as the foundation stone. No doubt the commercial intercourse of mankind is facilitated and kept up by these maps and charts; but we should aim at a higher object in the study of geography, viz., the improvement of man's moral culture, by a more extended knowledge of the productions of different climes, and by bringing before him,

on a large tabular scale, the moral and physical conditions of his race.

With this view of the importance of the subject before us the following instructions have been prepared ; but before attempting to point out the particular objects to which, in reference to geographical observations, the attention of travelers should be more immediately directed, it is, perhaps, advisable to mention a few general points which should be constantly borne in mind as the basis of all observations, inasmuch as without them, all individual remarks, however carefully made at the moment, will ever be desultory in their character and unsatisfactory in their results.

Most prominent amongst these general points is the necessity of acquiring a habit of writing down in a note-book, either immediately or at the earliest opportunity, the observations made and information obtained. Where numbers are concerned, the whole value of the information is lost unless the greatest accuracy is observed ; and amidst the hurry of business or professional duties, the memory is not always to be trusted. This habit cannot be carried too far. A thousand circumstances occur daily to a traveler in distant regions which, from repeated observation, may appear insignificant to himself, but which, when brought home in the pages of his note-book, may be of the greatest importance to others, either as affording new information to the scientific inquirer, or as corroborating the observations of others, or as affording the means of judging between the conflicting testimonies of former travelers.

It is also important, in order to secure accuracy, that the observations should be noted down on the spot. It is dangerous to trust much to the memory on such subjects ; and if the observation be worth making, it is essential that it be correct. And here, it may not be inappropriate to hold out a caution against too hasty generalization. A traveler is not justified in concluding that because the portion of a district, or continent, or island, which he has visited is wooded or rocky, or otherwise remarkable, the whole district may be set down as

similarly formed. He must carefully confine himself to the description of what he has himself seen, or what he has learned on undoubted authority.

Again, to the geographer, the constant use of the compass is of the greatest consequence. No one attempting to give geographical information should ever be without an instrument of this kind, as portable as is consistent with correctness. The bearings of distant points, the direction of the course of a river, however they may be guessed at by the eye, can never be accurately laid down without the compass; and these observations should be immediately transferred to the note-book. This and his compass should on all occasions be his constant and inseparable companions. In using the former, he should not forget that slight sketches of the country, and of the peculiar forms of hills, however hastily and roughly made, will often be of more assistance in recalling to his own mind, or in making intelligible to others, the features of the district he has visited, than long and elaborate descriptions. Let him, then, acquire the habit of never quitting his ship without his note-book and pencil and his pocket-compass; and, although at times it may seem irksome to have to remember and to fetch these materials, the traveler, if he acquires the habit of constantly using them with readiness, will never have reason to regret the delay or the inconvenience which may have temporarily arisen in providing himself, before starting, with such useful companions.

COMPARATIVE AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS OF THE UNITED STATES.

COMMUNICATED BY DR. R. S. FISHER, N. Y.

Specifications,	Absolute Numbers, Quantities, and Values,		Proportion to each inhabitant,		Movement of Proportion, &c., per centum,	
	1840.	1850.	1840.	1850.	Increase	Decrease
Inhabitants, <i>No.</i>	17,069,453	23,257,723			36.25	
Improved lands, <i>Acres.</i>		118,435,178		5.0923		
Unimproved " "		184,596,025		7.9269		
Cash value of farm lands, . . . \$		3,266,925,537		140.4652		
Value of implements and machinery, \$		151,603,147		6.5185		
Horses, <i>No.</i>	4,335,669	4,325,652	0.2540	0.2100		17.32
Asses and Mules, "		559,070				
Milch cows, "		6,391,946				
Working oxen, "	14,971,586	1,698,261	0.8771	0.7892		10.02
Other cattle, "		10,265,180				
Sheep, "	19,311,374	21,621,482	1.1313	0.9296		17.83
Swine, "	26,301,293	30,315,719	1.5408	1.3034		15.41
Value of all live-stock, \$		543,822,711		23.8824		
Wool, <i>lbs.</i>	35,802,114	52,518,143	2.0974	2.2580	7.11	
Butter, "		312,948,915		13.4557		
Cheese, "		105,539,599		4.5378		
Value of animals slaughtered, . \$		119,475,020		5.1370		
Wheat, <i>bush.</i>	84,823,272	100,479,150	4.9698	4.3191		13.09
Rye, "	18,645,567	14,188,457	1.0923	0.6100		44.16
Indian Corn, "	377,531,875	592,141,230	22.1174	25.4898	13.23	
Oats, "	123,071,341	146,533,216	7.2100	6.0004		16.77
Barley, "	4,161,504	5,167,213	0.2438	0.2222		8.85
Buckwheat, "	7,291,743	8,955,945	0.4271	0.3551		9.83
Rice, <i>lbs.</i>	80,841,422	215,312,710	4.7360	9.2577	95.47	
Tobacco, "	219,163,319	199,739,746	12.8397	8.5838		33.97
Cotton, ginned, "	790,479,275	987,450,000	46.3096	42.4568		8.32
Sugar, cane, "		247,778,000				
" maple, "	155,110,809	33,980,457	9.0870	12.1146	33.31	
Molasses, <i>galls.</i>		12,821,574		0.5512		
Hemp, dew-rotted, <i>tons.</i>		63,588				
" water-rotted, "		25,380	0.0055	0.0041		25.45
Flax, "		6,696				
Flax seed, <i>bush.</i>		562,810		0.0242		
Hay, <i>tons.</i>	10,248,108	12,839,141	0.6004	0.5520		8.06
Clover seed, <i>bush.</i>		467,983		0.0201		
Other grass seed, "		413,154		0.0177		
Hops, <i>lbs.</i>	1,238,502	3,407,524	0.0725	0.1465	103.44	
Peas and Beans, <i>bush.</i>		9,219,642		0.3964		
Potatoes, Irish, "		65,781,751				
" sweet, "	108,298,060	38,255,811	6.3445	4.4732		29.49
Wine, <i>galls.</i>	124,734	221,249	0.0073	0.0095	30.13	
Silk cocoons, <i>lbs.</i>	61,552	14,763	0.0036	0.0006		83.83
Beeswax and honey, "		14,850,627		0.6385		
Value of orchard products, . . . \$		7,720,862		0.3319		
" " market garden " . . . \$	2,601,196	5,270,130	0.1526	0.2261	47.51	
Value of home-made manufactures, \$	29,023,880	27,478,931	1.7003	1.1815		30.51

It thus appears that, so far as these returns are to be relied on, while the population of the country as increased at the unusual rate of 36½ per cent., most of the great agricultural products have actually decreased in quantity—which is incredible.